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Attempt to evade Euro ruling vetoed

Caning call earns rebuke for Shephard

By Philip Webster and John O'Leary

JOHN MAJOR was facing a revolt by rightwingers last night after reproaching Gillian Shephard for suggesting that schools could bring back the cane.

Several backbenchers said that they would back an education Bill amendment to restore corporal punishment in state schools, even though Mrs Shephard had to tell the Commons that the Government could not support it.

The deep split over the issue was exposed after the Education Secretary described corporal punishment as a very useful deterrent. Her pronouncement on BBC Radio was swiftly followed by a telephone call from the Prime Minister advising her against pressing the idea any further.

Tory MPs hoping to use the new Bill to give parents the right to consent to the caning of their children, bypassing a 1982 European Court of Human Rights ruling, were angry that Mr Major had snuffed their move.

Mrs Shephard was aware of their views when she made her controversial statement yesterday morning, and she was later cheered by Tory backbenchers in the Commons when she repeated her support for the cane. She admitted, however, that Mr Major took a different personal view and said that while



amendments might be tabled seeking to restore corporal punishment "we won't be giving them government backing".

James Pawsy, chairman of the Tory backbench education committee, nevertheless made plain his backing for a change to the law to allow parents to consent to corporal punishment in the new home-school contracts. He said that many parents would rather their children were caned than excluded from school.

The episode delighted the Labour leadership and Tony Blair mocked Mr Major for "contradicting and repudiating" Mrs Shephard

from his mobile phone on a train. But for Conservative MPs it was the latest sign of uncertainty in the Government over how to respond to the morality debate sparked by Frances Lawrence.

The extraordinary sequence of events began when Mrs Shephard was asked on the Today programme about suggestions that she and Michael Howard backed corporal punishment. "There is a lot of support for bringing back caning," she said. Although there was no proposal in her Bill, "I have no doubt there will be people in the House who might wish to bring it forward as the Bill proceeds through Parliament."

Two hours later, Mrs Shephard was interrupted in the middle of a speech while opening a sixth form at a Surrey school to take a call from Mr Major, who reminded her that "settled government policy" was against any return to the cane.

Downing Street said that the Prime Minister had telephoned Mrs Shephard and "in a good conversation" asked her "to make sure the position is very clear". The spokesman said there were a range of views in the Government over caning. "But the Government is not persuaded of its practicality. It is not going to put it in the Bill."

Even if the law were changed, schools would be unlikely to revive caning, since all the main teacher and parent groups opposed it.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "The world has moved on since the mid-1980s when caning was abolished. Bringing it back would open teachers to legal accusations of assault. It would also raise the question of discrimination - whether it would be brought back just for boys or for girls as well."

David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Re-introducing it would leave teachers vulnerable to action for damages under European law. There is also the danger that it would be abused in a minority of cases."

The National Union of Teachers said: "Teachers do not want to be involved in legalised assault on children."

Britain was the last European country to abolish corporal punishment in state schools in 1986; only a handful of independent schools keep the cane.

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Lord Hindlip, Christie's chairman, points during yesterday's auction in Vienna

Scramble for Holocaust art

By Roger Boyes

RECORDS crashed yesterday as private collectors, museums and Holocaust survivors bid fiercely for art works that symbolise Austria's neglected Jewish past.

Rarely has there been a sale so heavy with emotion and so politically charged: the 8,000 works of art, looted by the Nazis, represent a slice of prewar Jewish life and the shame of postwar Austrian authorities who made only tepid attempts to trace owners.

The money raised in the auction in Vienna will go mainly to Jewish charities; some will help non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

The first sign that this was no ordinary auction came with Lot 31. An oil painting - roses, tulips and poppies in a glass vase - by the 17th-century master Abraham Mignon was expected to reach \$74,000 (£46,000). It went to a London dealer, Richard Green, for \$15 million (£930,000). By the end of the first session yesterday, Christie's announced that they had already netted more

than \$5 million, the total expected for two days of bidding. "It is clear that this is a very emotional sale," said a spokeswoman for Christie's in Vienna, which is not charging commission. "The results are reflecting its tremendous poignancy as well as the strong artistic significance."

The biggest sale was expected to be completed about midnight: a rare painting by the Russian artist Aleksandr



Abraham Mignon's oil, which sold for £930,000

Archipenko. Dealers said that a major Jewish institution was likely to win the bidding.

Peter Noever, Director of Vienna's Museum for Applied Art, gave voice to some of the feelings about the sale: "This is not a moment for joy. These are the heirlooms of the dead, the expelled and the forgotten - stolen art from stolen lives."

Jewish community leaders in particular were unhappy about the way Austrian authorities have dragged their feet in the matter for more than four decades.

The Allies, who found the hoard in a saltmine, urged Austria to find the owners and return the works, which include sketches, sculptures, rare books and coins as well as fine oil paintings. Instead, most of the collection was borrowed by Austrian museums or stored. Eventually, lobbying pushed Austria towards the auction. Franz Vranitzky, the Chancellor, set the new tone with a pre-auction speech apologising to the Jewish people.

Swift's Last Orders wins close-run Booker race

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

GRAHAM SWIFT, a novelist who has expressed regret about the "racehorse element" of competitions, last night won the 1996 Booker Prize, the literary world's £20,000 answer to the Grand National.

Although his novel *Last Orders*, a story of a bizarre day's outing, was the hot favourite, there had been rows between the judges. Their chairman, Carmen Callil, co-founder of the feminist publisher Virago and a critic of the male-dominated publishing industry, objected to his book. She was battling for Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace*.

One source said: "Carmen must be the worst chairperson to have. You need to be objective and diplomatic. She is the most unobjective and undiplomatic person in the history of the world."

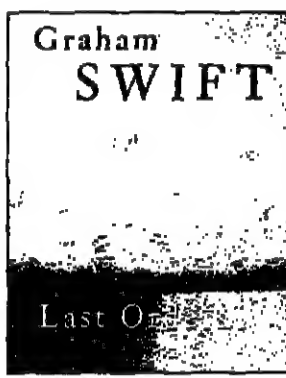
However, an insider said it had been a close-run thing. The choice was between Swift, Atwood and Seamus Deane (*Reading in the Dark*). The others - Beryl Bainbridge (*Every Man for Himself*), Rohinton Mistry (*A Fine Balance*) and Shena Mackay (*The Orchard on Fire*) - were ruled out very early in yesterday's final judging session. "Part of the trouble," he said, "was that the judges read those shortlisted works two or three times. Some were thinner on the third reading."

BookTrack, which has monitored sales of the six shortlisted novels in more than 600 bookshops, reported on Saturday that *Last Orders* had sold only three copies in that week.

Swift, born in 1949 and living in Wandsworth, was shortlisted for the Booker for *Waterland*, described as the finest British novel of the 1980s. His work has been translated into more than 20 languages. He regards *Last Orders* as his strongest yet.



Graham Swift and book of the moment



The judges eventually concluded that it was "beautifully reflective of this country at the moment," the insider said.

In a formal statement, Ms Callil said: "Choosing the winner was torture, but we eventually settled on *Last Orders*, a wonderful book that will give pleasure to thousands of people."

Auberon Waugh, editor of *The Literary Review*, said: "The Swift is not my favourite. It lacks a sense of the ridiculous and humour." But Alastair Niven, literature director of the Arts Council of England, said Swift was "such a intuitive writer."

Return to form, page 2

Mother's legal action over school closure

By Kathryn Knight

THE mother of Matthew Wilson, the 10-year-old boy whose bad behaviour led to the closure of a primary school, said yesterday that she was seeking a judicial review over the headmaster's actions.

Pamela Cliffe claimed her son was being used as a political pawn by unions, politicians and teachers. The gates of Manton Junior School in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, were closed after Mr Bill Skelley, the head, decided not to allow Matthew into lessons.

Mrs Cliffe's solicitor, Steve Williams, said his client had come to him in frustration. "She said that Matthew and herself had done everything asked of them by the teachers, the unions and the local education authority. Matthew is being used as a political football."

Mr Williams added that an action would definitely be lodged which might lead to the school and headmaster being sued.

Parents taking their children into the neighbouring infants' school all supported the headmaster's action and blamed the governors. Bernadette Barass, 38, and mother of 10-year-old Alison, said: "The governors are not willing to give the head of the school the benefit of the doubt. They're not seeing what he's seeing, and if they did their eyes would be opened. The governors appointed this man and now they won't listen to him."

Mr Skelley would not comment yesterday but a spokesman for his union, the NUT, said everyone was "very saddened" by the situation.

Fred Riddell, chairman of Nottingham's education committee, said that the LEA would be meeting the school governors and unions separately today.

Meanwhile, Matthew kicked a football of his own outside his home as he took advantage of what may be the first of many days off school.

Bloodbath on Broadway as Mackintosh sacks Les Mis cast

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SIR Cameron Mackintosh, the British impresario, has shaken New York's theatre world by sacking almost all the cast of his long-running musical *Les Misérables*.

In what stage lore may come to recall as the Bloodbath on Broadway, Sir Cameron announced radical changes to the decade-old show because it was suffering from "long-run-itis". Nearly all the 37 actors will go, and a new cast will open in March.

The musical's logo of a torn-clothed, smudge-faced wail was, by all accounts, a fair reflection of the scenes in the dressing rooms of Manhattan's

Imperial Theatre after the news was conveyed to the cast on Sunday. They had just performed the matinee when they were called on to the stage and told that the show needed freshening up.

One source said yesterday that there had been "a run on the tissues" immediately after the news was broken and much dabbling of powdered noses. Only one actor in a major part will be retained.

The American branch of Equity, the actors' union, said the move was "unprecedented and very distressing" and promised to help actors to obtain pay-offs, some of which may reach \$17,000 (£10,000).

Productions normally change by

stealth or because performers move on. Never before has a top musical shed its skin in such a manner. Sir Cameron, with his directors Trevor Nunn and John Caird, took the decision as "Les Mis" was preparing for its tenth anniversary on Broadway.

It has been a great success and continues to pack in the audiences, many of them sweet-natured folk from New Jersey and Pennsylvania - New York's equivalent of the blue rinse set who invade London's West End from the home Counties.

The Broadway production has been seen by about six million people and has made good money for its backers, taking \$250 million at the door.

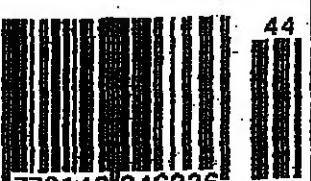
Mr Caird said the sackings were not

to be taken personally - many of the actors were "people I would like to work with again". However, he did not want the musical to "turn into Madame Tussaud's", which was a tendency with long-running shows.

Shock was only one emotion at play in Manhattan's theatre district yesterday. Sir Cameron has two other musicals on Broadway, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Miss Saigon*. They are in their eighth and sixth years respectively, and the misery at "Les Mis" generated cluckings of worried speculation about what might happen next. Sir Cameron is also a co-producer of *Cats*, which seems to have been running since there were Indian canoes on the Hudson.

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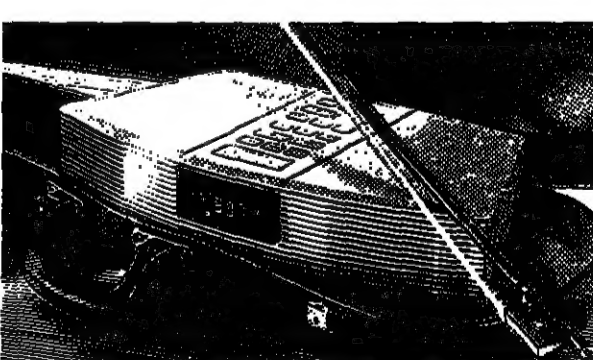


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Rare stroke of pluck given a caning by Corporal Punishment

A small exchange during the Education Debate yesterday offers a vignette of the dreadful level of Commons exchanges we can expect to witness until the election. Labour's Margaret Hodge (Barking) put a point to Education Secretary Gillian Shephard, then walked out of the Chamber while she was responding to it. Class sneak David Shaw (C. Dover) asked Teacher Shephard to reproach her. "I don't expect she'll be missed," hissed Shephard. That offers the flavour not

only of the afternoon, but of the whole coming political season. People who remarry, Dr Johnson once said, are proof of the triumph of hope over experience. So are sketchwriters who return to Prime Minister's Questions after the long recess believing we may finally see something worth watching. Maybe John Major, after a summer's reflection, will relax, desist from his peevish digs at the Opposition, and talk to MPs in the grown-up

way he seemed able and happy to talk to his own Conference in Bournemouth? Maybe Tony Blair will stop moralising, scale down his absurd rhetoric, allow himself a chuckle and give up the clanking, creaking soundbite he has plunked onto the end of every question for two years? Some hope. They learn nothing. Three months to stand back and reassess — and, come 3.15 on Tuesday October 29, what do they do? Lurch straight back into the same weary, slippery and



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

unconvincing routine which every poll has been telling them for years serves only to irritate the public. What have I to report to you from yesterday's session that is even amusing, let alone significant? A couple of Labour MPs, including the Party leader, tried to trip up the Prime Minister over BSE and the

European ban: a problem which any fool knows can only be exacerbated by a three-minute Punch & Judy diatribe in the Commons. A Tory backbencher, William Powell (C. Corby) asked a creeping "question" (longprattling Mr Major on his Asian trip) so teasingly craven that to apply the term "poodle" to Mr Pow-

ell would be to insult these brave and intelligent dogs. Courage, in fact, seems to have fled the Chamber, not to return until after the election. Mr Blair didn't even dare mention the inter-Tory squall over corporal punishment until his final soundbite, when it was too late for Mr Major to ask him his own views. As for Major, he ducked the question completely. But the Education Secretary herself yesterday savoured for the first time a pleasure this Centrist Conservative politi-

cian has until now abjured: the sweet sound of the united cheers of the Tory Right. In the course of an unmemorable speech in the Education Debate, listened to fitfully by a handful of MPs, Mrs Shephard decided to repeat that she personally favoured corporal punishment in schools. The lusty roar of support for this which greeted her from behind, at first startled, then pleased her. A baleful pointer to the future. In fact whenever the subject was raised — which it repeat-

edly was yesterday — Mrs Shephard couldn't suppress a mischievous grin. This tiny, bird-like figure, in a trim black suit, white blouse and pearls, resembled a schoolgirl whom the head had snatched for insubordination, but who, because of this, had become something of a star among the rowdier elements of her class. Headmaster Major ought by now to recognise the danger of corporal punishment at Westminster. It can turn a first-time offender into a hero, and permanent rebel.

Winning to seek meeting with Blair over abortion

By Shirley English

THE head of Scotland's Roman Catholics will seek a meeting with Tony Blair in an attempt to clarify the Labour leader's position on abortion and place the "right to life" at the centre of moral debate. Cardinal Thomas Winning of Glasgow yesterday repeated his earlier criticism of Labour's stance on abortion and refused to apologise for remarks in which he accused Mr Blair of having "washed his hands" of the issue. Cardinal Winning said abortion was "an obvious moral issue — perhaps the most serious of our times". At a time when the

nation was considering banning guns after Dunblane, defending the right to life of the unborn child was not "out of place", he added. He said he had singled out Labour for criticism because "they might well be the next Government" and Catholic voters had a right to know where the party stood. Cardinal Winning was unrepentant in the wake of Labour anger over his comments on the BBC's *Everyman* programme on Sunday, in which he said Labour and Tony Blair had "consistently avoided" condemning abor-

tion. Yesterday he said his words were not meant as a personal attack on Mr Blair and he had no intention of apologising. "When the Church does take part in, or open a moral debate in a pluralistic society, it means that she is calling for dialogue," he said. "The question I am really asking of all political parties is: is the Abortion Act of 1967 appropriate for 1997? Have we not had enough of the killing of unborn children?" Cardinal Winning said he was not telling people how to vote. "That would be foolish. But the Labour Party is very strong in this country, and might well be the next Government, so it is very important for us to know where they stand. I am not going to say they are any worse than the Conservative Party as far as the pro-life issue is concerned."

Churches urged to aid low-cost homes

THE ARCHBISHOP of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, yesterday appealed for churches to allow buildings and land surplus to their needs to be used for low-cost housing (Ruth Gledhill writes). Cardinal Hume, speaking at Central Hall, Westminster, said churches had a role to play in highlighting the moral aspect of homelessness, and also in giving practical help to those in need of housing. He urged churches to identify 100 potential sites nationwide which could be developed for

housing. "The principle is surely right that consideration should be given to using any surplus church property to help homeless people when that property is being disposed of," he said. "Today in Britain we have a situation where very large numbers of people do not have a decent home. Few things are more basic than a home." The Right Rev John Gladwin, Anglican bishop of Guildford, backed his appeal. Church sites are already being developed in Plymouth, Bolton and Portsmouth.

Ireland — something Labour has denied. Labour yesterday welcomed Cardinal Winning's assurances that his previous remarks had not been intended as a personal criticism of Tony Blair. John McFall, deputy shadow Scottish secretary, said: "This is not a party political issue but has traditionally been a matter which is subject to a free vote in the House of Commons. It is therefore right that the Cardinal should address his comments towards all politicians, as he did today." Jane Roe, of the Abortion



Cardinal Winning: refused to apologise over remarks

Challenge 'would free thousands of inmates'

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of prisoners would benefit from early release or a shorter jail term if a court challenge to the way prison sentences are calculated succeeds, the Lord Chief Justice was told yesterday.

Stephen Richards, counsel for the Home Office, also drew attention to the consequences of claims for false imprisonment from inmates who believed they had been unlawfully detained. He said: "The consequences would be very serious indeed, both in terms of the release of existing prisoners — and no doubt in terms of claims for false imprisonment."

Michelle Evans, 22, serving two years for burglary, actual bodily harm and assault, and Paul Reid, 19, serving two years and three months for burglary and receiving stolen goods, are bringing a test case over the way time spent on remand is deducted from concurrent sentences. It follows the early release of more than 500 prisoners serving consecutive sentences. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, blocked further releases.

Evans and Reid argue that the current system of deciding how many days should be deducted for time on remand in custody was "hopelessly complex" and unlawful. Mr Richards said change "would produce a wholly unjustified benefit for thousands of defendants whose sentences, and release dates have been determined." Lord Bingham reserved judgment.

Labour and Lib-Dems to discuss reforms

Labour and the Liberal Democrats announced yesterday they will hold joint talks to try to pave the way for sweeping constitutional reforms in the lifetime of the next Parliament. Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown have given their full support to the establishment of a cross-party committee to lead the discussions.

Proportional representation, reform of the House of Lords, devolution and a Freedom of Information Act will dominate the agenda of the committee, which met for the first time yesterday and will prepare reports for both party leaders. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, who is leading the Tories' defence of the constitution, said: "The Lib/Lab pact which laid Britain low in the 1970s is back."

School assault charge

A primary school head teacher was yesterday charged with common assault on one of his pupils, John Mann, 46, is alleged to have assaulted 11-year-old Paul Price when he intervened in a fight at Fordsdown Primary School, Portsmouth, in May. Mr Mann, who denied the charge at a pre-trial review at Portsmouth Magistrates' Court, is due to appear again on January 10. School discipline page 10.

Youths brought to book

Parents are to get police reports on their teenage children's antisocial behaviour on the streets of Cambridge and nearby villages. Teenagers causing a nuisance with noise, loutish behaviour and drunkenness will no longer be moved on but will have their details taken in an effort to curb such behaviour. Their parents will get a full briefing with advice on how to deal with problems. Caning dispute, page 10.

Beckett's EMU doubts

Margaret Beckett expressed renewed doubts whether a Labour Government would join the first round of a European single currency. The Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary said the "great nightmare" facing Britain was that it would not be economically strong enough for monetary union by 1999. Her comments reflect recent signs that Labour no longer wants to join a single currency in the first wave.

Mail staff set to strike

Postal workers' leaders will today announce the results of a ballot on more strike action at the Royal Mail. Leaders of the Communication Workers' Union were last night confident that members working for the Royal Mail would have voted for new strikes. CWU postal members mounted eight days of strikes earlier this year but suspended the action for a new ballot over the pay offer.

The lost post

A postman who hid mail under his bed because he did not like making deliveries up steep hills in Stroud, Gloucestershire, was sentenced to 240 hours community service by magistrates and ordered to pay £191 compensation for extra deliveries. Mail investigators found more than 1,800 letters, packets and circulars after complaints led them to David Bedwell, 23. He has since become a student.

Mackay to chair marriage team

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor will next week launch a top-level initiative to help to prevent marriage breakdown and cut the divorce rate.

A marriage "task force" chaired by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will announce a scheme to generate new ways of helping married couples to stay together.

Lord Mackay, who is the minister responsible for marriage, said yesterday that his team of officials drawn from eight government departments will invite ideas for new schemes to support couples.

The task force, which was set up under Lord Mackay's chairmanship last year, is to pump funds into projects designed to cut the rate and costs of marriage breakdown.

Entering the current moral controversy yesterday for the first time, the Lord Chancellor also delivered a blunt message that practical help to stop marriage breakdown was of more use than debate. He told *The Times*: "I believe in the importance of doing some-

thing practical and what I am trying to do is to work out good ways of helping people prepare for marriage."

The aim of the task force will be twofold: providing practical help and advice before marriage and in the early days of a marriage where pressures arise over parenthood or career choices; and publishing a directory of marriage support services.

"These are difficult times. But I personally want to address the practical issues the state can address... I would regard it as a practical matter to prepare people for marriage and the responsibilities of marriage."

He also lent his support to Gillian Shephard's call for marriage to be included in a moral code for schools. Lord Mackay is now responsible for funding groups such as Relate that offer marriage counselling. Last year the Government spent £2.25 million on marriage guidance and research. This year it will spend £2.32 million.

Swift happy to be judged by his pier

By Erica Wagner

GRAHAM SWIFT, winner of the Booker Prize for his novel *Last Orders*, has confounded critics with a long-awaited return to form. Many had written him off after he last reached the Booker shortlist 13 years ago with *Waterland*, his third novel, which won the Guardian Fiction Prize. In the same year he appeared in *Granta's* "Best of Young British Novelists" issue, which also included Martin Amis, Pat Barker and Julian Barnes.

His next two novels, *Out of This World* in 1988 and *Ever After* in 1992, received mixed reviews, and he has admitted that his later writing has stood in *Waterland's* long shadow. "I'd like to think that something I was writing 15 years ago should not haunt me in a

disadvantageous way," he said recently.

Swift was born in South London in 1949 and educated at Dulwich College (as were Raymond Chandler, PG Wodehouse and CS Forester) and at Cambridge University. His father was a civil servant and he has described his childhood as "a very ordinary suburban existence". The setting of *Last Orders* is a world away from that existence and from his previous work. Leavelle, Vic Ray and Vince travel from Bermondsey to Margate with the ashes of Jack Dodds, a butcher, to scatter them from the end of the pier. A strong picture of intermingled fates emerges, with a redemptive power.

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Mr Hobson was originally charged with making improper use of the telephone but he was issued with a formal caution by Avon and Somerset

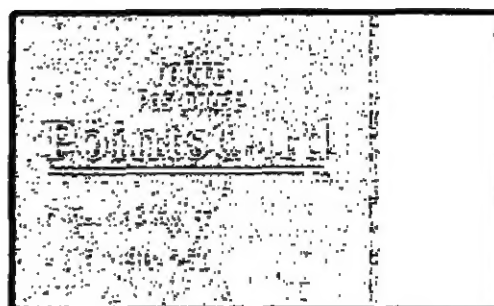
At the hearing yesterday, Patrick Mason, for the prosecution, said: "It

Previously Ms Wood claimed to have had a three-month affair with the

Wells Cathedral School, which has the motto *Esto Quod Es* (Be what you are) was founded in the 12th century. Its fees are £9,000 a year.

Forecast, page 24

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Forecast, page 24

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Hasbro said yesterday that it had no intention of upsetting Mrs. Banks. The objective of the game was to acknowledge recent news events "and it would be impossible to contact everyone concerned", it added.

Police forces 'must do more' to catch burglars

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Chief Inspector of Constabulary has told police to work harder to solve domestic burglaries after publishing figures showing that less than a quarter of break-ins are cleared up.

The report, produced by Trefor Morris but published by his successor, David O'Dowd, says there is "considerable room for improvement in the detection of volume crime and burglary".

The figures show wide variations across England and Wales in 1995-96 for burglary and violent crime. No force was found to be performing badly, but very few were

considered to be doing well across every area of the five performance indicators.

The report said there had been an effective and sustained performance in answering 999 calls and reaching incidents. Forces were also reaching good levels of satisfaction with the public. Clear-up rates for violent crime were still largely high.

However, only 24 per cent of burglaries were solved despite the fact that many forces are now running campaigns targeting burglary suspects. Humberside Police detected 13 per cent of 17,000 cases and Northumbria also solved the

same proportion of 25,000 cases. Lincolnshire detected 41 per cent of 5,148 burglaries.

The number of cases solved per 100 officers averaged 120. West Midlands was at the top with 226 and Lancashire solved 221. Overall, 28 forces showed improvements on 1994-95, but Greater Manchester fell heavily to 104. This is linked to a strategy of targeting suspects and diverting officers to interviewing convicted prisoners for confessions on other cases.

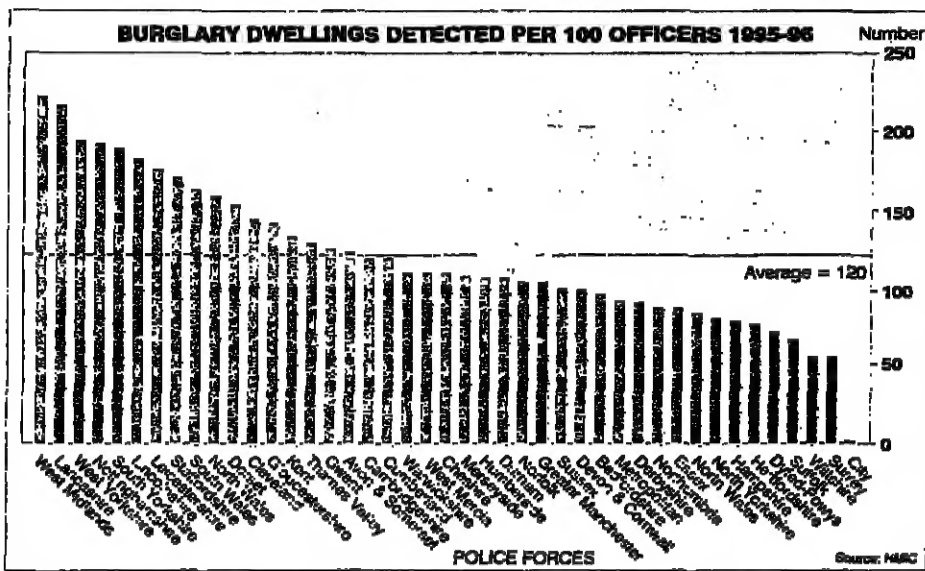
The report showed that 65 per cent of violent crime was solved, but within the 43 forces the rate ranged from 44 per

cent in the West Midlands with 47,000 cases to 96 per cent in Dyfed-Powys with 1,380 cases. On the basis of cases solved per 100 officers, the national average was 184. Nottingham and Staffordshire did best with 359 and 300 down to Lancashire, Herefordshire and West Midlands at the bottom with 117, 120 and 109 respectively.

Nottinghamshire did well in a number of areas. Avon and Somerset and Staffordshire also scored quite highly. Mr O'Dowd said comparison of the figures was complex and while the performance indicators highlighted differences, they did not provide answers.

The report also warned about continued problems of bullying, racism and sexism among police. A survey published by the Inspectorate earlier this year found that cases of oppressive bullying were rising, sexual and racist harassment had become more covert but was still being used, and senior police managers were still not taking action.

The report shows the number of women officers in England and Wales has risen to a record 14.5 per cent. Recruits from ethnic backgrounds have also reached a record 1.81 per cent. Mr O'Dowd said strong leadership was needed to deal with discrimination and harassment. Progress had been made on equal opportunities but this was not enough.



High Court frees BCCI fraudster wanted for trial in America

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING figure in the BCCI fraud was ordered to be released from jail yesterday after judges criticised the Home Office over delays in his extradition to the United States.

Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, the former treasurer of the Bank of Credit and Commercial International, has spent 14 months in custody awaiting extradition to face charges of alleged blackmail. The

extradition has been delayed by disagreements over paperwork between Britain and authorities in France, from where he was originally extradited. Yesterday two High Court judges ruled that enough was enough.

Akbar, 52, who has already served jail terms for false accounting and conspiracy to launder drug money, will walk free from Brixton jail today unless the United States authorities issue another warrant for his extradition.

Yesterday's ruling was another

setback for Michael Howard at the hands of the judiciary. Lord Justice Rose said in the High Court: "During the last two months the Home Secretary has shown a personal interest in this case. Had he done so 12 months ago matters might have been different." He added: "The time has come to say enough is enough. He is discharged from custody forthwith."

Lord Justice Rose said he was "wholly unpersuaded" that the Home Office had shown sufficient cause why Akbar should not be set

free under rules governing the length of time a person can be held pending extradition. "Once he was arrested in September 1995 it was incumbent upon the Home Office to take sufficient steps to extradite him." For half of that time the Home Office did nothing and, although the judge said he recognised the seriousness of the allegations of blackmail Akbar faced in America, this was all the more reason to get on with the case.

Akbar, of Golders Green, north London, who earned £200,000 a

year as head of BCCI's treasury division, has served an 18-month sentence for conspiring to launder drug money and three years of a six-year sentence for false accounting. He fled to France after being released from jail on parole in 1991 during his sentence for drug trafficking. He was arrested in Calais and extradited to Britain on charges of false accounting.

The United States dropped extradition proceedings in connection with laundering the proceeds of cocaine dealing in Florida. But

American authorities began new extradition proceedings, alleging that he accepted a \$15 million bribe from BCCI for not disclosing details of corruption to a senator.

He was taken into custody after the Home Secretary agreed that the extradition could proceed, but the French legal authorities blocked the move. They said they had only agreed to the original extradition on false accounting and should be involved in any further attempt by the United States to re-extradite Akbar on other allegations.

Demoted terrorist killed in ambush

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A LOYALIST terrorist who was "demoted" by the Ulster Volunteer Force last week was shot dead yesterday.

Tommy Stewart, 32, was killed by masked attackers in the Ballysillan area of north Belfast shortly before 2am. A friend escaped without injury. A man and a woman were arrested after the shooting.

The UVF, which disciplined Stewart after he allegedly failed to hand over thousands of pounds from a Post Office robbery, hinted that the killing was carried out by non-terrorist criminals with a grudge. David Ervine, the main spokesman of the Progressive Unionist Party — the UVF's political wing — said the UVF had "absolutely nothing to do with the murder".

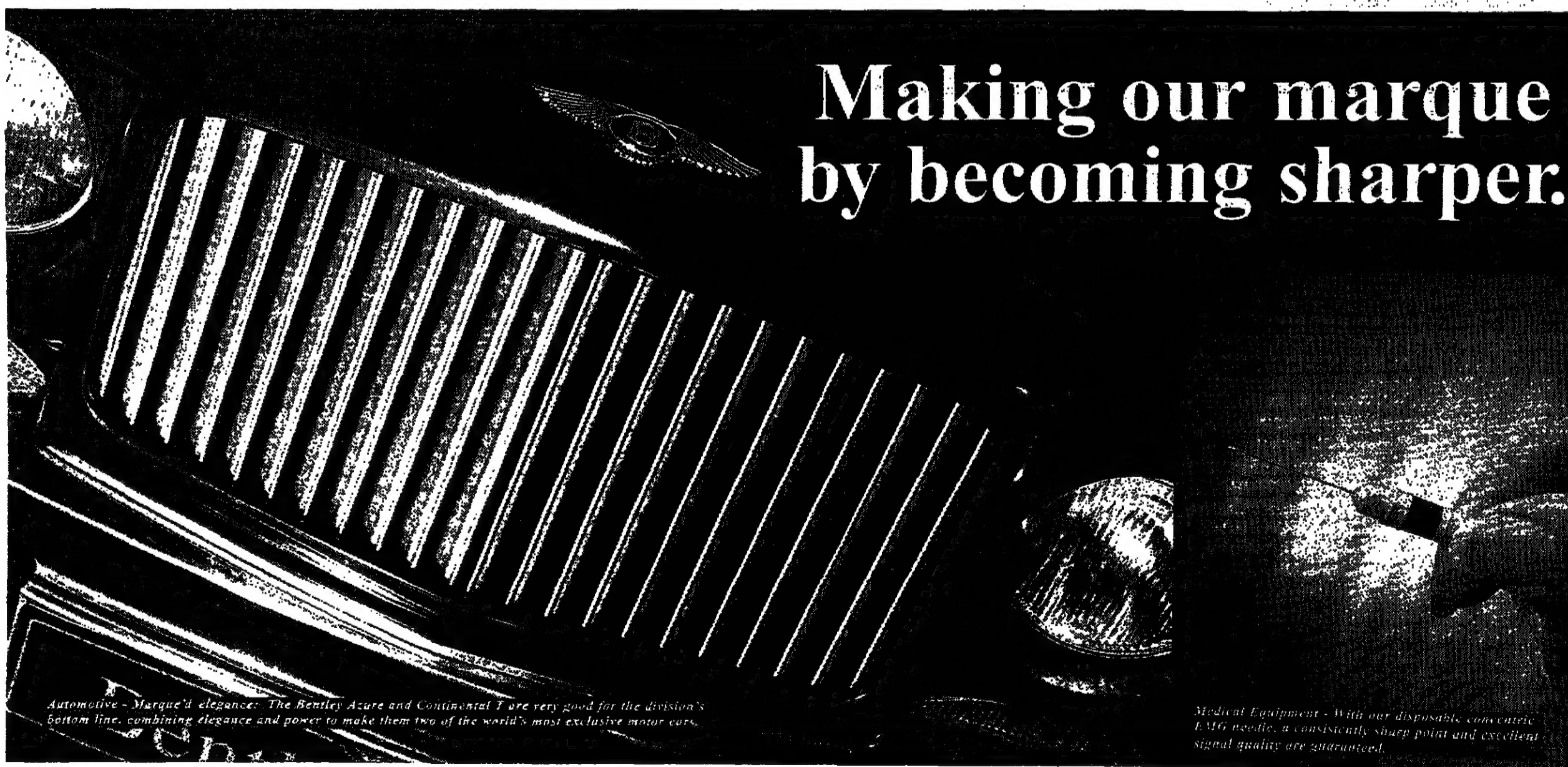
Security sources said they were keeping an open mind on the shooting. One said: "It is a murky picture between criminal elements fighting among themselves and renegade UVF members."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, condemned yesterday's murder. He said: "Any murder by anybody of anybody has got to be unreservedly condemned. Without qualification, I extend my sympathy to those who have been bereaved."

Also on Monday night, three men were shot in the legs in a suspected loyalist "kneecapping" punishment. The men, who are in their 20s, were ordered at gunpoint to queue up for the shooting in north Belfast.

John Major has agreed to hold talks on Northern Ireland on November 19 with the leaders of the Progressive Unionist Party and the Ulster Democratic Party — which both have links with paramilitary organisations — so long as the loyalist ceasefire holds. It was announced yesterday. They had called for talks this month, on the principle of consent, whereby proposals for the future would be put to a popular majority vote.

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Legislation needed to end widespread breaches that threaten justice, says Lord Chancellor

Mackay plans law to stop media paying witnesses

BY FRANCIS GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to outlaw the "widespread mischief" of payments to trial witnesses by newspapers were unveiled by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, yesterday.

The Government is proposing a new offence to prohibit payment or offers of payment to anyone likely to be a witness in a trial which is pending or imminent. The proposals, on which comments are invited, have been drawn up in the wake of what the Government believes were "widespread and flagrant breaches"

of the newspaper code of practice which rules out payments of this type.

In the recent Rosemary West trial, 19 witnesses are believed to have accepted money from, or signed contracts with, the media. Payments such as these, Lord Mackay said yesterday, constituted "a real risk to the administration of justice" and steps were needed to "prevent the practice from becoming more widespread".

He said: "We do not believe that the law in this area is clear, or that the matter can be left to media self-regulation alone." There needed to be consultation before moving for-

ward, he said, but added: "I believe that Parliament needs to regulate in statute."

His consultation paper proposes that payment to witnesses should become an offence under the Contempt of Court Act 1981, or that it should become a new criminal offence.

The chief danger of paying witnesses which the paper highlights was that they might omit something from their evidence in order to leave something exclusive for a story in the media, or might exaggerate evidence to make their stories more newsworthy. Witnesses might also "become so committed to their

particular accounts that they may be unwilling objectively to examine points put to them in court."

Even where witnesses were not swayed by contracts with the media, it is likely the paper says, that cross-examination would raise their existence, suggesting their evidence might be flawed and sowing doubts in juries' minds.

The Government says new laws must cover payments in kind, such as expensive holidays, and payments through an intermediary. They would also cover foreign media if the offer were made in this jurisdiction, even if the story were published abroad. It recommends

that, to be effective, the new law should not be limited to cases where it can be proved there is actual prejudice.

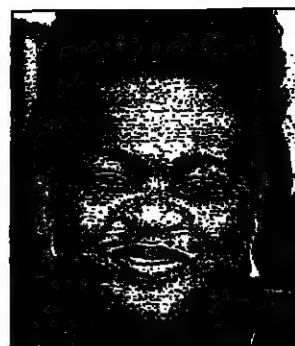
The Government says there need be only a risk of prejudice for an offence to be committed. The new offence would bite when proceedings were "imminent or pending", as under the contempt laws, so as not to prevent "legitimate investigative journalism", the paper says.

A ban on all interviews would be an "unacceptable restriction," it says. "It is the offering, requesting or making of payments which is the basis of the mischief which needs to be targeted." Where journalists had

good reason not to know an individual was likely to be a witness, there would be no offence. Comments are invited by December 31, including on whether the ban should cease after the trial or carry on for several months after any possible appeal.

The proposals come after a review set up by the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney General in the wake of the Rosemary West trial. They are based on the law of England and Wales but, the paper says, the position in Scotland may also need a review.

Media, pages 22, 23



Janet Stewart: she said she tried to complain

Sole black officer at jail tells of race hate

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PRISON'S only black officer suffered a hate campaign after she fell out with a powerful warder who was a friend of the governor, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Janet Stewart, 33, who alleges race discrimination, was called a "black bastard", moved to more tedious guard duties and woken at home by the sound of a racist singing outside, it was claimed.

The tribunal at Croydon, south London, was told that her tormentors wanted to drive her out of her £20,000 job at HMP Litchmere House rehabilitation centre, Surrey, because they saw her as a "danger to the establishment".

Ms Stewart, who has two children, joined in 1992. Her problems were said to have begun in June the following year when she suffered racist abuse from Graham Vaughan, 53, now retired, a former executive committee member of the Prison Officers' Association and friend of Sean O'Neill, 56, who was then the governor.

Ms Stewart's representative, Harjit Grewal, said: "Mr Vaughan had a drink problem. It is alleged he was drunk on June 9 and that he used racist language."

After the incident Mr Vaughan was said to have asked the head of personnel if "that black bastard" had made a complaint against him. Ms Stewart said she tried to tell the governor of the harassment: "For a long time he didn't speak to me, but when he did he would continually try to throw me off the track by telling me what nice eyes I had or how nicely dressed I was." The hearing continues.

Palace meeting solves Prince's garden problem

BY A STAFF REPORTER

GARDENING inevitably came up when Rosemary Verez was invited by the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace yesterday. In particular, how to keep water in a fountain clear.

Television viewers earlier this month saw the Prince and his gardening adviser discussing difficulties at Highgrove, Gloucestershire, on BBC's *The English Country Garden*. As they chatted informally, walking in the rain while the Prince held a large umbrella, he pointed to a fountain he had designed and talked of his disappointment at the "utterly revolting" murky water. "I have tried everything and it is rather sad because otherwise it was going to look rather nice," he said.

Yesterday, in front of hundreds of other honours recipients and their families in the formal splendour of Buckingham Palace's great ballroom, 77-year-old Mrs Verez was able to tell him that his problem might soon be over. She said shortly after the ceremony: "I told him that, as a result of our programme, I have had a letter from a man who is an expert on keeping pools clear."

The miss said he had been doing it for 20 years. The Prince said it was good news

and asked me to put the man in touch with him." Mrs Verez, who was appointed OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours "for services to garden design and history", has been advising the Prince for eight years.

Despite the grand design of the Buckingham Palace grounds, Mrs Verez said she still preferred the much smaller Highgrove. "Every corner of the Prince's garden has something changing, something happening," she said. "Every time he goes away, he comes back with something new for the garden. I just love going there."

Jonathan Edwards, denied the triple jump gold at the Atlanta Olympics in a rare lapse from a long run of successes, was wished good luck for his future by the Prince when he received the MBE insignia for services to athletics. Edwards, 30, who won silver at Atlanta when he managed just 17.88 metres instead of the 18 metres-plus he was aiming for, said the Prince made him feel even more positive about his future chances — perhaps in the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

The Prince said it was very unfortunate that I didn't get the gold medal, said there was obviously so much pressure at the time," he said later. "He



Jonathan Edwards, who won the triple jump silver at Atlanta, and his wife Alison, with his MBE insignia

took a great deal of interest and obviously understood how I felt at Atlanta. I was in tears at one stage, but you just have to pick yourself up."

Edwards, of Newcastle upon Tyne, was at the Palace with his wife, Alison, his mother, Jill, and his father, the Rev Andrew Edwards, vicar of Canford Magna, near Bournemouth. Others invest-

ed yesterday included Lieutenant-General Sir Rupert Smith, General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and former UN commander in Bosnia (bar to DSO),

Monty Fresco, 71, *Daily Mail* photographer (MBE), and Tom Shebbeare, executive director of the Prince's Trusts (Commander of the Royal Victorian Order).

Store fined over safety guard that killed baby

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE chain store Argos was found guilty yesterday of selling a child bedguard that killed a baby boy.

The firm ignored danger warnings from two mothers before Matthew l'Anson, aged 10 months, was found strangled at home in Hartlepool, with his head between the bars and his feet dangling off the floor. The £9.99 guard was designed to stop toddlers falling out of bed, but magistrates at Teesside were told that the gaps between the bars were too wide and the product had no minimum age warning.

Suzanne Fagan, from Northwich, Cheshire, had complained to Argos in May last year after her three-year-old son's head became trapped in the bars. Another mother, Rosemary Chesters, from Workington, Cumbria, pointed out the hazard 11 months before the hanging.

The bedguard makers, Aronstead, of Wakefield, Yorkshire — which have since ceased trading — had reduced the spacing from 10cms to 7.5cms, but some of the old models remained on sale. Argos ultimately spent £250,000 on notices withdrawing them. Out of 74,000 sold, 10,000 were returned.

The store was found guilty of two safety standards offences and was fined £3,000 with £8,502 costs.

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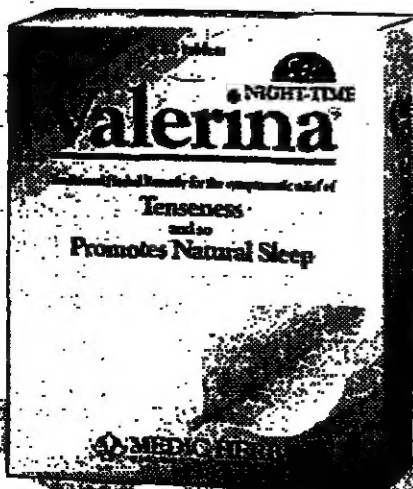
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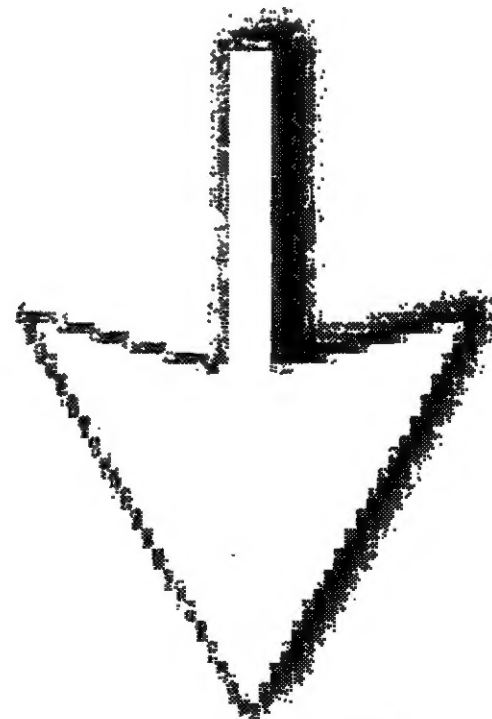
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Leading article, page 23

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Queen watches from riverside pavilion as royal barges put on spectacular display

Echoes of Cleopatra as Thais push the boat out

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN BANGKOK

YOU would not mistake the King of Thailand's royal flotilla for the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, but you might reasonably expect Cleopatra to glide by at any moment. There are 52 barges, rowed by more than 2,000 ratings of the Royal Thai Navy in a traditional costume that looks as if it might have been ceremonial dress at the court of Genghis Khan.

The barge procession down the Chao Phraya river past the golden temples of Bangkok, to be held next week, is one of the highlights of King Bhumibol Adulyadej's golden jubilee. The Queen, on the second day of her state visit to Thailand, watched its dress rehearsal from a riverside pavilion.

The grandest vessels are entirely gold, matching anything that Mark Antony saw on the Nile, with the exception of Shakespeare's purple perumed sails and "pretty-dimpled boys" with fans. Other vessels are brilliant red and all are decorated with the astonishing intricacy of Buddhist art. According to 600-year-old

custom, they row at a snail's pace, accompanied by an ethereal chant from the oarsmen that, on first hearing, sounds faintly like *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* from some distant Twickenham. Never mind that nowadays the singing comes from battery-powered on-board amplifiers, this is the electronics-obsessed Far East.

The Queen enjoyed the spectacle, but not the climate. Yesterday Bangkok wilted at 35C (95F) and 80 per cent humidity, causing the Queen to undertake four changes of clothing during the day.

She began in blue and white primed jersey with matching straw hat, switched to tangerine chifon with another straw hat for lunch and back to blue and white for the afternoon, but without the hat. In the evening, to watch a son at *lumiére* show at a temple complex 50 miles from Bangkok, she changed yet again into evening dress.

The Duke of Edinburgh matched the quick change routine in the morning, visiting a naval academy. He wore



Ratings wear traditional dress in the 600-year-old ceremony. The oarsmen's "ethereal chant" actually comes from battery-powered amplifiers

the short-sleeved whites of an Admiral of the Fleet, looking ever more like his late uncle, Earl Mountbatten of Burma. For lunch he was back to a dark suit, for the afternoon another slightly less dark suit, and for the evening black tie. During a visit to the British Council offices in Bangkok, the Queen staged an impromptu walkabout among the large crowd outside, to the

alarm of Thai officials unused to such informality. Accompanied by Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, one of the King's three daughters, the Queen greeted the crowd, which had been well supplied in advance with paper Union flags, and created much delight simply by smiling and saying "Hello".

At lunch at the Bank of Thailand, the Queen was

again spared the hotter excesses of Thai cuisine. She ate foaming mountain cress soup, supreme of corn-fed duck with a beetroot and apple confit and celery snow, finishing with water chestnut jewels and sugar-cane ice-cream with tropical fruits, accompanied by an Australian chardonnay.

Later, at Bangkok airport, the Queen celebrated a notable British export success.

Rolls-Royce has sold 20 of its new Trent 800 engines to Thai International Airways, and now has an order book worth £3.5 billion from southeast Asia.

There was less encouraging news for the 20 Britons held in Thai jails after being convicted of drugs-related offences, who had hoped for a further amnesty in addition to the cuts in sentences granted by King

Bhumibol to mark his jubilee. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, who is accompanying the Queen, had talks with his Thai opposite number yesterday but gave no indication that further concessions were on their way. He said that no individual cases had been discussed, despite speculation that one, Sandra Gregory, might be given an early transfer to a British prison.

Rector, 90, retires with blast at lax morals

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Church of England's oldest serving rector announced his retirement yesterday, the day after celebrating his nineteenth birthday.

The Rev Douglas White, Rector of Mudford, near Yeovil, in Somerset, is retiring after 63 years in the Anglican ministry and after 46 years at Mudford.

During his time as parson at the village church he has christened, married and buried up to three generations of different families. As recently as the Sunday before last, his church was packed for five simultaneous christenings.

But almost concern to Mr. White, who married at 64 to Yolande, a 21-year-old businessman's daughter, who is 39 years his junior, was the decline in morality he had witnessed in the Church and society. He said yesterday: "I won't stop spreading the Christian word. I agree with the latest moral crusade and will be supporting it all the way. Unusually, he ensures that the Ten Commandments are read regularly in full services."

Mr. White, who has two children, Joy, 25, and Zoe, 22, said: "There is a greater laxity of moral guidance in the Church. There is an acceptance of large moral defects, which saddens me."

Singing monks tipped for top of Christmas chart

BY AUDREY MAGES AND ROBIN YOUNG

THERE could be an unfamiliar religious note to the pop charts this Christmas. Monks have shot to No 1 in the Irish album chart, displacing the likes of REM and Simply Red. In Britain, monks and boys from a leading Roman Catholic school have entered the classical chart with a recording of 1,000-year-old Gregorian chants.

Faith of Our Fathers, the Irish disc, went on sale ten days ago and reached No 1 within a week. The idea came to John Kearns, 36, an insurance executive, while at Mass in Dublin in February. An elderly priest led the congregation in traditional hymns and the monks continued to sing through Mr. Kearns's mind the next day.

"I reckoned none of these classic religious anthems of Ireland had been put on record and most people would never have heard them with an orchestra," Mr. Kearns said. "I knew the album could work."

He set to work with Bernard Bennett, a colleague. Record companies laughed at the idea, but they raised £90,000 and organised a cast of about 200 people, including monks from Glendal Abbey, the tenor Frank Patterson and the soprano Regina Nathan.

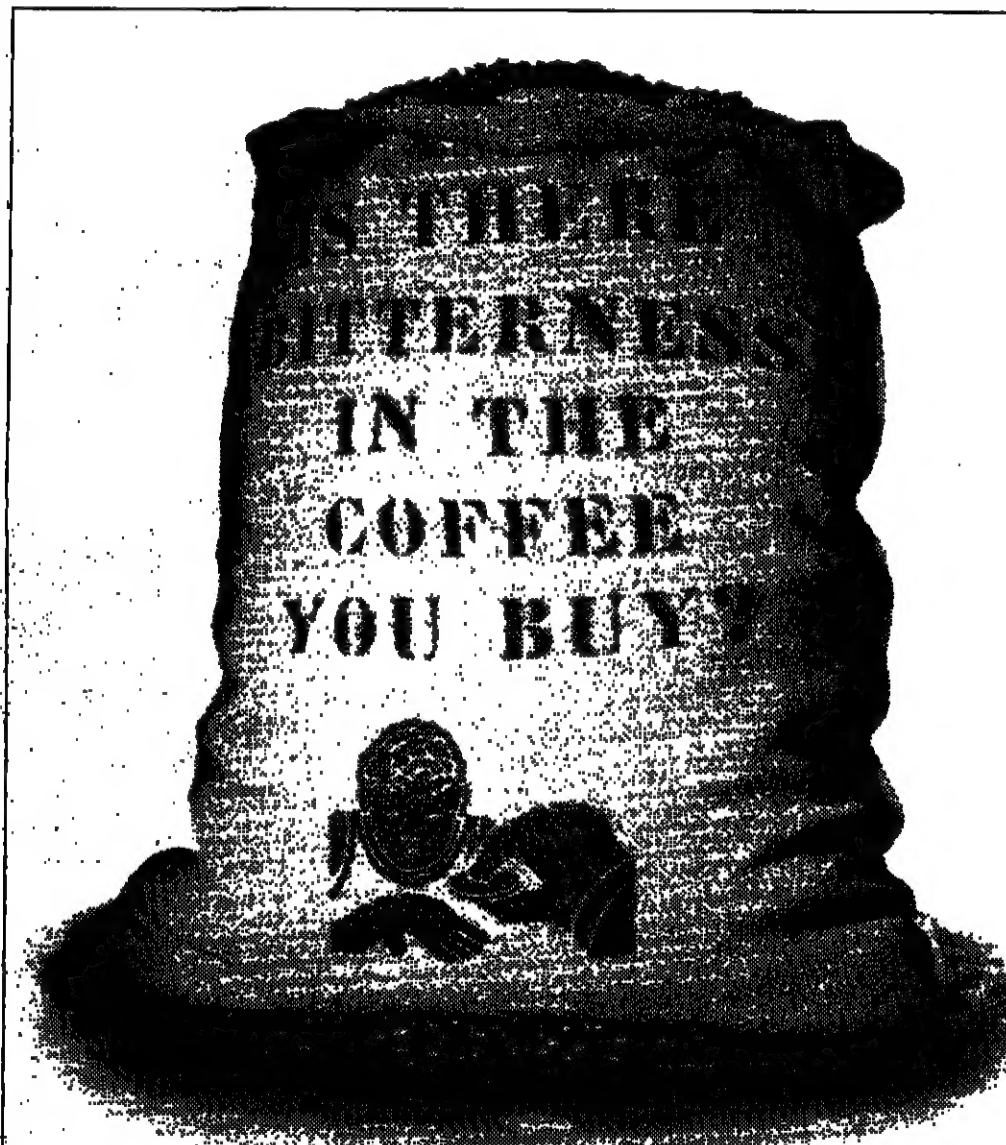
the RTE Youth Choir and the Irish Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir. The 20 tracks were recorded in two and a half days at Maynooth College.

In the first week 35,000 albums were sold and up to 200,000 are expected to be sold by Christmas. Negotiations are under way for British sales. Concerts are to be held next year.

The Benedictine brothers of Downside Abbey, near Bath, are hoping to emulate the Irish success. Their album, *The Abbey*, entered the classical chart and also reached No 54 in the pop listing after one week on sale.

With the backing of a £150,000 promotional campaign by the record company, Virgin, the monks and their pupils could be in the top ten by Christmas. Father Dunstan O'Keefe, the monks' choir master, said: "It is a much slower and more meditative style of music, which people do not usually get in the world around them. I hope that it touches the soul."

Two years ago six million copies were sold worldwide of an album of Gregorian chants by Spanish monks. The royalties from the Downside album will provide scholarships and new musical instruments.



Minas, Brazil, 1996. A coffee plantation worker toils in 80 degree heat to earn 56p an hour. It's not enough but it's better than nothing. Nothing is what he earned last week when bad weather stopped the harvest. Nothing is what he will earn for the next eight months, when the season is over.

A family is paid a pittance for an 11 hour day.

A child of 6 is taken from school to work in the harvest season.

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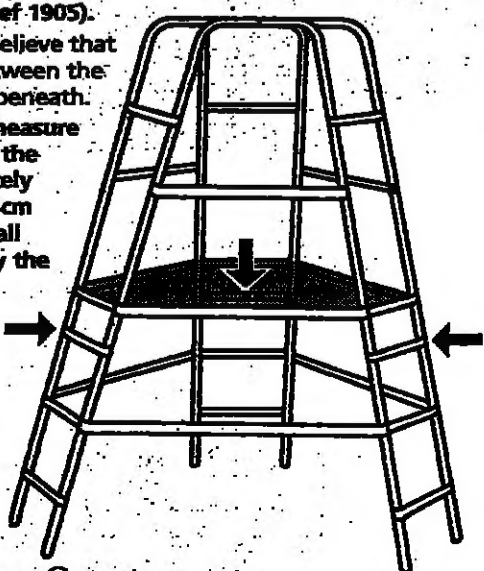
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Early Learning Centre

Poll nerves force delay on bypass decision

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION on the controversial Salisbury bypass has been delayed by the Government in an attempt to avoid a damaging dispute with environmentalists before the general election.

The Secretaries of State for Transport and the Environment announced yesterday a minimum of a further three months' discussion on the proposed routes to consider damage to nature and wildlife sites. Construction of the road looks increasingly unlikely.

The 11 miles of dual carriageway, which would cut through sites of special scientific interest, was originally part of a scheme linking Southampton and Bristol. Other parts of that route have already been dropped.

Whitehall sources suggested that John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, and Sir George Young, his Transport counterpart, were reluctant to support the road but did not want to risk new controversy shortly before the election. Also the ministers did not wish to embarrass Robert Key, the local Tory MP and a former Roads Minister, who supports the scheme.

The Government's announcement may have been influenced by a new report that says the economic benefit of the scheme would not be as great as previously thought.

The delay has angered supporters and opponents of the bypass, first proposed in the 1980s. The district council has backed the scheme in the belief that it will relieve serious congestion in the cathedral city. John Haywood, leader of the Liberal Democrat-controlled council, said: "We wanted a decision, even if that decision was goodbye."

Simon Festing, of Friends of the Earth, said that the

Government should have demonstrated its environmental credentials by cancelling the scheme. "The Government seems to be fudging the issue until after a general election," Mr Festing said. "This leaves the bypass with no justification as it will not solve the traffic problems of Salisbury."

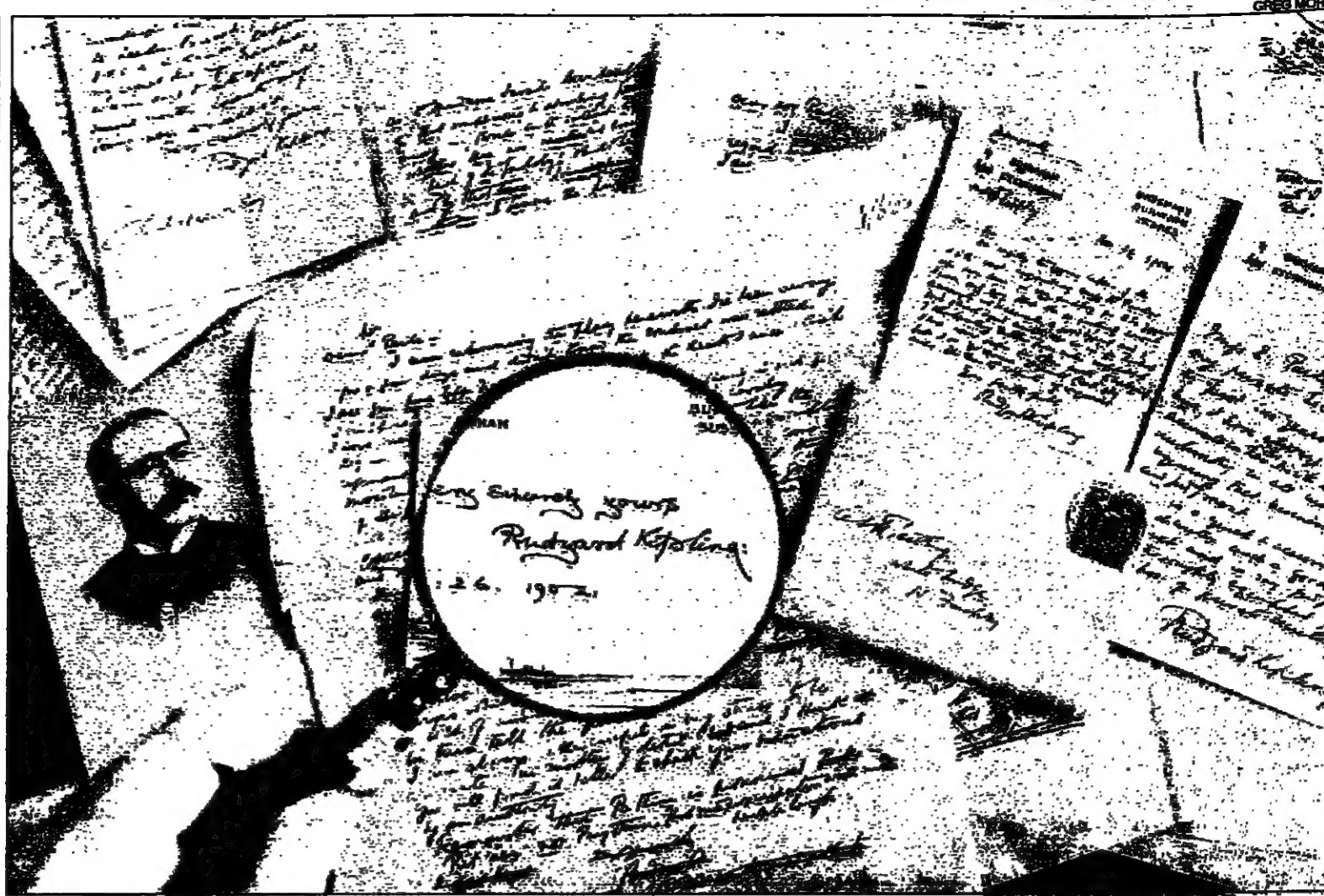
Friends of the Earth is in discussions with the newly privatised rail freight companies to see how much freight could be carried on a nearby line instead of on the congested A36.

The report on the economic benefits of the bypass was written by consulting engineers on behalf of the Highways Agency after the public inquiry into the scheme. It says that the route would not be loss-making, but that the economic benefits up to 2011 would be £107 million compared with a previous estimate of £135 million.

Sir George Young said yesterday that inspector's report from the public inquiry had shown "a strong case for a bypass of Salisbury", but there had been significant developments since the inquiry ended in April 1994. These included the decision to declare part of East Harnham Meadows, an area to the south of the city, a site of special scientific interest.

Mr Gummer said: "We are concerned both about the environment of the people of Salisbury and the need to minimise the environmental impact of the proposed bypass. Before we come to a final decision, we need to satisfy ourselves that the level of impact on the local environment is acceptable."

Mr Key said: "This will ensure that there can be no question of a wrong decision being made."



A selection of the papers, which were taken by Kipling's private secretary. She complained that he had treated her "like a common typist".

Kipling letters found in saleroom chest

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A COLLECTION of Rudyard Kipling's papers has been discovered in two brown paper bags within a chest of drawers consigned to a furniture sale at a Chichester auction house.

The material was taken by a disgruntled employee, Miss K.E. Parker, Kipling's private secretary from 1902 until 1904. Mr and Mrs Kipling, she grumbled in a four-page memo, "treat me like a common typist and yet expect work of as good quality as if they treated me at least with civility and paid me well."

The collection includes a heavily corrected typescript of his fantasy story, *With the Night Mail*, and letters to Kipling which he annotated with his replies. In one, he was offered a Lancaster car if

he would "immortalise" the donor in a story. Kipling declined, explaining that he had only just become used to his present car. The reply he scribbled on the letter for the secretary to type reads: "Acknowledged with thanks. Mr Kipling has, after some time, more or less mastered the intricacies of one type of car and does not feel equal to

taking on another. He has no doubt that the GHP Lancaster has interesting and unusual traits of its own, but he has passed that period in his life when necessities in a car interest him. He prefers cars that go on in a perfectly uneventful manner."

In another letter, Kipling notes the unsuitability of Sarah Bernhardt to star in a

dramatised version of one of his stories: "Imagine that imperious... person turned loose, so to speak, on a story of mine."

A hint of the tension between Kipling and Miss Parker emerges in a reference he wrote for her in 1904. Although he described her as entirely honest and a good typist, he noted: "She is in the

habit of elaborating letters from notes supplied."

Elizabeth Inglis, assistant librarian in charge of the Kipling papers at the University of Sussex, said the collection was extremely interesting and would make a welcome addition to the university's Kipling correspondence, which it holds on behalf of the National Trust.

She said that Mrs Kipling, rather than her husband, was known to have been difficult. "She kept everyone at arm's length," from Kipling. "She looked after his time and privacy very jealously. I don't think he had a reputation for being particularly crusty."

The collection, which is estimated to fetch around £5,000, will be offered on November 5 at Stride, Chichester, West Sussex.

Leading article, page 19

Gallery fails in bid for Freud

A GALLERY that was refused National Lottery assistance to buy a Lucian Freud painting has failed to raise the asking price. The work is now likely to go to America (Dalya Alberge writes).

Lucian Freud completed *Portrait on a Grey Cover* a few months ago. Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal, Cumbria,

which drew 26,000 people to a Freud exhibition, had hoped to buy it for £780,000 but could raise only £250,000. A lottery donation was not forthcoming because the picture was a contemporary work.

The Heritage Lottery Fund said that works of art had to be more than 20 years old to qualify for a donation. The

Arts Council said that the painting did not qualify because it was not a commission and it does not help with the purchase of works for permanent collections.

Edward King, Abbot Hall's director, said that galleries would be denied important contemporary works unless the rules were changed.

Police move against off-licences

Northumbria Police began legal action yesterday to strip five off-licences in Wallsend and North Shields of their alcohol licences. The move is the result of Operation Andy Capp, a six-month investigation into an outbreak of disorder among young people in the area of Tyneside served by the shops. Police believe that much of the trouble stemmed from under-age drinking. The applications will be heard within two months.

Piano memorial

Money from a memorial fund for Caroline Dickinson, 13, who was murdered in France, will pay for a piano at Launceston College, where she was a pupil. It will also sponsor a poetry competition and a bed of daffodils at the college.

Change of heart

A surgeon who was barred from admitting patients after a sex change has had the ban overturned. Sarah, formerly William, Muirhead-Allwood, 49, is an orthopaedic surgeon at the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, London.

Death on road

Alick James Albutt, 59, of Coventry, died when he was dragged along the road for more than two miles after being hit by a vehicle or falling as he left a pub, police believe. A van driver has been released on police bail.

Vandal attack

A war memorial in Chapeltown Park, Sheffield, is to be demolished after attacks by vandals left it beyond repair. The demolition has been approved after talks with the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

Harrods relents

Harrods has dropped a £1 charge to use its lavatories for customers who spend £100 or more. A spokesman said that customers' grievances were well founded, but it was not up to the store to act as a public convenience.

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Leading article, page 23

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Drug test reveals pain gap between men and women

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

PAIN brings out the differences between the sexes but, contrary to popular myth, women are not really any more stoic than men. The latest evidence comes from experiments by an American team which show that the sexes respond very differently to opiate painkillers.

Though relatively ineffective at controlling pain in men, these drugs proved much more successful for women. The results back the belief that the sexes perceive pain in a different way, and suggest that painkillers, which are relatively little used because they were originally tested on men, may be well worth prescribing for women.

Writing in *Nature Medicine*, Dr Karen Berkley, of Florida State University, says that about half of all trials comparing pain perception show that women have a lower threshold and lower tolerance than men. Others failed to find any difference.

Females often appear to have lower thresholds, greater ability to discriminate, higher

pain ratings and less tolerance, she says. "Women generally report pains in more body regions than men and are more likely to report recurrent or chronic pains that are also more severe and of longer duration."

New experiments, also reported in *Nature Medicine* by a team led by Dr Jon Levine, from the University of California at San Francisco, show that young men and women respond differently to opiate painkillers after operations to remove wisdom teeth. Nalbutaphine and butorphanol were administered by intravenous injection as soon as the anaesthetic from the operation wore off. The amount of pain felt was monitored, showing that the two painkillers worked well for the women, but had only a brief effect for the men.

One possibility is that the male hormone testosterone interacts with this class of opioids, reducing their effect, or that female hormones such as progesterone or oestrogen increase the drug's power. Another explanation is that

the drugs linger longer in women's bodies or are metabolised differently, but the duration of the side-effects reported by both sexes argues against this.

Dr Berkley, who comments on the findings in the same issue of the journal, says that the results illustrate the problems that arise from basing so many drug trials upon men. Studies on rats have shown that sex hormones have complex and potent influences on the effects of opiate painkillers, she says. "We know that men and women differ in certain fundamental ways, so it isn't surprising that they may differ in this way, too. Time of day, the stage of the menstrual cycle and other things are very important."

Researchers at the William Harvey Research Institute in London say they have identified a natural mechanism, the protein lipocortin-1, which can halt the destruction of bone and cartilage caused by rheumatoid arthritis. They believe it may be possible to develop drugs which mimic the effect.



Rocio Nieto Rubio with her daughter and assistant, Rocio Mora Nieto

Spanish vice girls' saviour wins Lady Godiva prize

By Ian Murray

A SPANISH social worker who has dedicated her life to helping prostitutes was chosen in preference to a Nobel Peace Prize winner yesterday to receive a new international award created by a British city.

Rocio Nieto Rubio will receive no prize money, but says the Godiva International Award is of great value to her work. "Charities for Aids, the elderly, disabled children and other good causes are all well established and the public support them," she said. "This award is international recognition at last of the problems facing prostitutes and the work needed to help them."

The award was initiated by Coventry council to mark the 100th anniversary of automobile construction in the city. It will be granted annually to a woman whose courage recalls that of Lady Godiva, said to have ridden naked through the streets to force her husband to rescind penal taxes. Embassies in London were asked to nominate women who might qualify.

Señora Rubio was chosen from among 33 worldwide nominees. Those on the

shortlist included Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese opposition leader and Nobel winner, and Heather Mills, the British model who lost a leg in a road accident and now trains others to use artificial limbs.

The Spanish Government nominated Señora Rubio for her work among the poorest prostitutes in Madrid and Alicante. She began her efforts in the slums of the capital 25 years ago.

"I found there was nobody caring for these people dumped in the middle of cities," she said yesterday. "They need help finding homes for their children. They have no education and cannot cope with bureaucracy. They are exploited by pimps and need help to get out of the drugs habit."

In 1989 she set up an association for the rehabilitation of prostitutes, which is backed by the Government. Since then it has rehabilitated 1,200 women and helped a further 3,400.

She is often threatened by pimps but finds that the best form of defence is to stand up to them. "At heart these people are just cowards."



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Myth that began with childbirth

IT HAS long been known that women respond to alcohol faster than men, in smaller doses and that the effect lasts longer. It might be supposed that painkilling analgesics would behave in a similar fashion.

One of the striking features of today's prescribing habits is that fear of inducing addiction leads to painkillers being given in doses too small to be effective. Of the drugs in the Californian survey, Nalbutaphine is usually administered by injection to control mild to moderate pain, often after an anaesthetic. "Butorphanol" is more akin to morphine, has a similar depressant effect on respiration and can, if prescribed for a very long while, lead to addiction.

The myth that women suffer pain much better than men has probably grown up because of their willingness to start another pregnancy despite the ghastliness of some deliveries. Women's stoicism in the face of appalling, long-term adversity had reinforced the belief that they were, by

nature, also able to tolerate acute pain without complaining. No one can forget that they suffer chronic illness well, and are prepared to forget the pain of childbirth, which can now, mercifully, be removed in most cases, by ambulatory epidural anaesthesia.

Experience in general practice shows that women certainly feel acute pain every bit as much as men, and that they are not always reluctant to let the doctor and midwife know if the delivery is not as easy as they had hoped. The experience of the Californian doctors that painkillers are more efficient in women is also an everyday observation of family doctors, but it is nice to have it analysed and scientifically proven.

The admission of feeling pain is partly cultural. In societies where children have been told to "jump up, grin and bear it" after minor accidents, adults feel that to admit pain is showing weakness. Never have I seen such tolerance of pain as was displayed by agricultural male workers at my Norfolk practice. They seemed to consider that resorting to local anaesthesia for a minor operation was a reflection on their character, as well as being a waste of time. "Just get your bloody knife out, doctor, and be done with it," was their approach.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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Mike Blackburn

Mike Blackburn
Chief Executive, Halifax Building Society

Halifax Building Society, Trinity Road, Halifax

School discipline: Backbench Tories demand a return to 'moderate corporal punishment'

Shephard knew the Right planned a caning campaign

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SEVERAL Tory backbenchers had urged Gillian Shephard to restore corporal punishment in state schools before she declared her views yesterday.

The party's rightwingers had been co-ordinating a campaign and had discussed the issue with the Education Secretary and her junior ministers. Mrs Shephard expressed her support for caning yesterday in the full knowledge that James Pawsey, chairman of the Tory backbench education committee, was planning an attempt to reintroduce it with an amendment to the forthcoming Education Bill. Her department had also been approached by members of the all-party Education Select Committee who also support a return to corporal punishment.

Yesterday the campaign leaders were furious that the Prime Minister had snubbed their plan, which they claimed had widespread support in the country. The main focus of the campaign was to get round the restrictions of the European

Court of Human Rights by drawing up school contracts to allow parents to consent to their children being caned for misbehaviour.

In 1986 Mr Pawsey, MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, lost a similar amendment by one vote, when MPs decided to put Britain in line with the rest of Europe and abolish corporal punishment in state schools. Thirty Tory MPs, mainly from the left of the party, then voted with the Opposition to ban caning. But yesterday even leftwingers such as David Nicholson joined the clamour to give teachers the means to impose discipline. They argued that discipline had worsened since corporal punishment was banned in 1987. Two weapons had been removed from teachers: detention and the cane.

Mr Nicholson, MP for Taunton and a member of the Education Select Committee, said: "I think there is a role for corporal punishment in schools."

Mr Pawsey, who is once again leading the debate, sug-

gested yesterday that school contracts could be changed to allow parents to give their consent. He told the Commons: "Exclusions result in those children who most need education and discipline being put outside the school gates, where the devil will soon find work for idle hands. I therefore argue that should a school wish to insert in its contract a clause which will allow the school head to use the cane in place of exclusion, then such a clause should be inserted and the contract signed by the parent. I believe that most parents would prefer their children to be caned on the hand rather than excluded from school."

Mr Pawsey said he was anxious that teachers had all the sanctions they needed. "Corporal punishment is merely one of those sanctions. The mere fact that it is available would in most cases be sufficient. The cane in the corner of the headteacher's study is in itself a powerful deterrent."

Harry Greenway, Tory MP



Government inspectors arrived yesterday to begin a two-day audit of the Ridings School, Halifax, where disciplinary problems have led teachers to threaten a strike. The inspectors will produce a report for the governors and an action plan for the Education Secretary. The result of a strike ballot is expected by the end of this week.

for Ealing North and a member of the Education Select Committee, said that he would consider putting forward an amendment to the Education Bill to raise the issue of corporal punishment. "I could certainly see myself doing that because I think there is so

much value in proper corporal punishment — I don't mean beating boys until they bleed, I mean moderate and reasonable corporal punishment which is an indignity to the recipient."

Earlier Sir Rhodes Boyson, Tory MP for Brent North and

a former headmaster, appealed for the return of caning. "We now have something like 10 per cent of 15 and 16-year-olds in open revolt, either inside our schools or truanting in our cities, with an underground like the Artful Dodger in the 19th century,"

he said on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*. "I think corporal punishment should be brought back. It should be in the Government's Bill with the full backing of the Government."

Leading article, page 19

Changing the law would put Britain on trial

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

RESTORING corporal punishment to state schools would fall foul both of a series of European Court of Human Rights rulings and of international conventions signed by the Government. It would also demonstrate contempt for the United Nations recommendations that corporal punishment be prohibited not only in the state sector, as now, but also in the private sector.

Peter Newell, co-ordinator of EPOCH, a group that campaigns against corporal punishment, said yesterday: "It is hard to believe that an education minister could be giving support to the institutionalised caning of children in 1996. It is a relief that the Prime Minister has confirmed that in view of our international obligations, re-introduction of corporal punishment is not practicable."

The trend is running in favour of wider bans on corporal punishment. A case pending before the European Commission on Human Rights, brought by a boy who was beaten by his stepfather with a garden cane, challenges the right of parents to administer corporal punishment at home and rests on the same law applied by the European Court to schools.

Corporal punishment was outlawed in state schools almost ten years ago after a campaign by parents, teachers and others led to series of rulings against the Government by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The legislation covers state-funded education in independent schools, including children subsidised under the Assisted Places Scheme.

Since then there have been attempts to outlaw corporal punishment in independent schools. In 1993 the European Court of Human Rights rejected, by a majority verdict, an attempt by a parent to extend its earlier ruling to independent schools. But in a unanimous statement, the judges said that the ruling should not be taken as in any way representing approval of the use of corporal punishment.

Officials may have thought that they could circumvent the law by means of contracts with parents, which could include permission for corporal punishment. But Mr Newell said: "If it becomes a condition of entry to accept corporal punishment, then that certainly breaches the European Convention."

The phone call that brought Major's rebuke

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

GILLIAN SHEPHARD was five minutes into a speech at a school in Surrey when she was interrupted by a telephone call from the Prime Minister.

Although such interventions are extremely rare and usually a source of pride to a Cabinet minister, the Education Secretary knew this was one conversation she could do

without. She was aware of the furore caused by her radio interview when she strongly hinted that the Government was planning to bring back corporal punishment.

When Downing Street officials heard how the interview on the BBC's *Today* programme was being interpreted on the 9 o'clock bulletins, they knew something had to be done. During the regular meeting between officials and

the Prime Minister between 9am and 9.30, it was agreed that John Major would speak to Mrs Shephard directly.

During her train journey to Elmbridge, where she was to open a sixth-form college, her officials were contacted by mobile phone and told to expect a call from Mr Major on her arrival. The call came late and she had to interrupt her speech for 15 minutes.

Downing Street sources

said that Mr Major merely wanted to point out that both he and she had to face questions in the Commons that afternoon and it was important they agreed what line to take. But it was made clear in Westminster that Mr Major gave Mrs Shephard a dressing down.

However, she returned to her audience looking relaxed, according to Hugh Ashton, the Mayor of Elmbridge. "She

didn't look under pressure at all," he said. "Her demeanour was quite normal. I pulled her leg and asked what we were all dying to know: are you still Secretary of State for Education?"

Everyone, including Mrs Shephard, laughed and she said: "Yes, and the PM is still the PM." She then continued her visit for 45 minutes before returning to the Education Department.

Few still cling to discredited stick

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MORE than a dozen schools in England still use corporal punishment, but few are established names and the list of diehards is dwindling.

Rodney School in Newark gave up beating after publicly over the caning of five 11-year-old girls was followed by a 50 per cent drop in the number of pupils in the early 1990s. Holmes Grammar School in Oldham has also stopped since the appointment of a new headmaster.

St James Boys' School in Twickenham, West London, still uses the cane in rare cases but it has some pupils whose parents will not give their consent.

Christian fundamentalist schools account for most of those that practise corporal punishment. The Christian Fellowship School in Toxteth, Liverpool, has used the sanction for 15 years, and the Bradford Christian School recently started using it.

State schools were barred from caning in 1987, most having given up the practice long before. The leading in-

dependent schools also all proclaim their abstinence.

Arthur Hearnden, general secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council, said: "We have never ruled out corporal punishment, although it cannot be used on pupils supported by state funds, but there is a general consensus against it."

Nicholas Debenham, St James' headmaster, said that the Prime Minister was sensible to rule out a general return to corporal punishment because the conditions for its successful use were not present in many schools. "You may need a sanction which boys slightly fear, but unless there is love and trust and respect from the beginning it will not work."

Mr Debenham said that he had used the cane six times in the last school year, for offences such as bullying or persistent disobedience and lying. Corporal punishment is not used in the school's junior department or in the girls' school.

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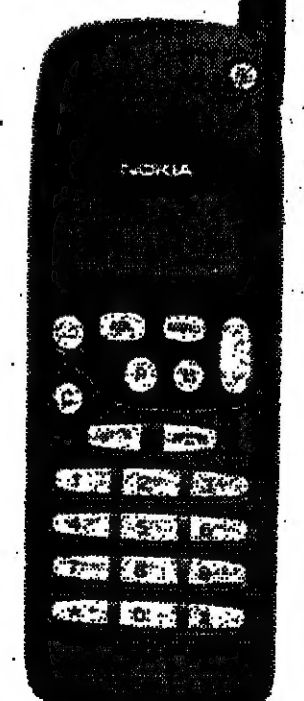
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Fighting in Zaire poses threat of wider conflict

FROM SAM KILEY IN GATUMBA ON THE BURUNDI-ZAIRE BORDER

WEAK and weeping from lack of food and water for three days, two girls aged about nine still found enough reserves of energy to fight over a cob of corn. They scratched at each other's faces and tore at their pigtail as they fought amid Tutsi soldiers milling about.

Their battle to satisfy their hunger ended when a passing peasant woman gave them another corn cob. They were then beaten back to their families by a Tutsi soldier clutching a stick in one hand and a rifle in the other.

The girls are among 1,700 Hutus from Burundi living as refugees in Zaire, a few miles on the other side of the Ruzizi River separating the two countries. They had fled Burundi's war between Hutu and Tutsi extremists last year only to be engulfed now in the violence raging in Zaire between Tutsi rebels and the Zairean Army in the east. The Hutu refugees are caught up in a war they want no part of, and judging by the hatred shown them by Tutsi soldiers, they may soon be joining the war's many



victims hidden in mass graves.

Among them was Sylvester Bikorimana, 36, who had led his extended family of 22 members from Kyunga, close to Uvira where Zaire's slaughter of Tutsis and their subsequent rebellion began. He said he had been well-treated by the Tutsi warriors who ordered refugees from Rwanda and Burundi to return home. "I saw many dead bodies in the streets of the town, mostly shot, and all civilians. I don't know what tribe they were from. I didn't stop to look." Unlike fellow Hutus from Rwanda, Mr Bikorimana and his family

did not participate in the genocide of a million Tutsis there in 1994.

The latest ethnic warfare is threatening Africa's worst yet humanitarian crisis. Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said in Geneva that the refugee situation could be "worse than 1994" when 1.2 million Rwandan Hutus fled to Zaire after unleashing a genocide of Tutsis.

Zaire's ailing President Mobutu, undergoing treatment for cancer in a clinic in Switzerland, yesterday ordered that the eastern provinces of North and South Kivu be placed under military rule in an attempt to contain the warfare threatening to draw in Burundi and Rwanda, and which some fear could lead to the breakup of the country.

Yesterday soldiers in the Zaire Army fired at journalists filming Rwandan Hutu refugees fleeing the fighting in the Kivu provinces. Their fire was returned by Rwanda's mainly Tutsi army, and shooting continued sporadically throughout the day. Zaire's Tutsi

rebels and Zairean troops exchanged heavy gunfire for two hours yesterday near Bukavu airport in eastern Zaire as the rebels infiltrated the provincial capital, witnesses said.

Five minutes up the winding road linking Burundi and Rwanda a lorry driver lay dead. Bullet holes in the windscreen explained how he had died, but not who had shot him. A few hundred yards away two Burundian soldiers lounged by the road. They may have ambushed the driver and killed him for being a Hutu. Hutu rebels may have sprayed him with bullets for being a Tutsi. In this part of the world it is better not to stop and find out.

Geneva: The UN appealed yesterday for Western satellite pictures to trace hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the ethnic conflict. The agency had no access to up to 400,000 Rwandan Hutus cut off north of Goma and 300,000 on the run in Uvira and Bukavu, further south. (Reuters)

Letters, page 19



A Zairean refugee who lost his mother as they entered Rwanda at the Matura crossing point. They were trying to escape from the fighting in eastern Zaire

Coalition talks falter in Japan

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

WITH less than a week to go before the opening of parliament and the election of the new Prime Minister, Japan appeared to be heading for a minority government last night.

The dominant Liberal Democratic Party was still bargaining with potential coalition partners, but with little to show for its efforts. The Liberal Democrats are trying to persuade the Social Democratic Party and the Sakigake Party to keep the present three-party alliance. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, is certain to win re-election at the November 7 session, but is anxious to avoid forming an unstable minority government.

In the recent general election, Mr Hashimoto's Liberal Democrats strengthened their position as the biggest party, but fell 12 seats short of gaining a majority in the Lower House. Unless he can build a majority, Mr Hashimoto will face the constant danger of losing a confidence motion, which could bring down the government.

Foreigners told not to interfere in Chinese trial

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

CHINA said last night that foreign countries should not interfere in the trial of Wang Dan, one of the country's best known dissidents and the former student leader during the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy demonstrations in 1989.

Mr Wang, 27, is due to go on trial today for allegedly trying to overthrow the Government, in the same court in which China's leading dissident, Wei Jingsheng, was sentenced to 14 years in prison. "In principle, this is the internal affair of China and

Watch/Asia, the trial "shows conclusively that Western mantras about economic growth producing political liberalisation notwithstanding, Chinese leaders are growing increasingly intolerant of dissent". China's urban dissident movement "has in effect been comprehensively smashed".

The consequences are particularly significant for Hong Kong, which has been warned by some of Peking's most senior leaders that protests or statements that "interfere" in Chinese politics



Wang: severe penalty

foreign countries should not interfere," Shen Guofang, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday. He added that foreign observers must receive permission from the Justice Department. The American Embassy has asked to send an observer, but has had no response.

Mr Wang was charged on October 7 with counter-revolution for articles he wrote criticising the Government, and for organising a self-help group for dissidents freed from jail. He was detained in May last year.

The trial, on charges of "attempting to subvert the Chinese Government", is based on confiscated or distorted documents or activities which in many other countries would be regarded as normal political behaviour. In the words of the New York-based Human Rights

says that because of his past detention, he should be "sentenced with extra severity".

The criminal law stipulates: "Whoever commits any of the crimes of counter-revolution mentioned above... may be sentenced to death."

Paris: The Dalai Lama was kept at arm's length on a three-day visit as French officials feared a dispute with Peking before an official visit to China by President Chirac. China's Foreign Ministry had warned France against any official contact with the Tibetan spiritual leader. (AFP)

Pyongyang 'war plan'

By ROBERT WHYMANT

A NORTH Korean captured after his submarine ran aground off the South Korean coast said yesterday that he and other agents were engaged in a reconnaissance mission, not a routine training exercise that went wrong, as Pyongyang has claimed.

Lee Kwan Soo said he was a lieutenant belonging to the

Reconnaissance Bureau of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces. Lieutenant Lee, 31, said the submarine crew was not told the purpose of the mission but he believed it was to prepare for "a war against the South".

Seoul: A court yesterday jailed 51 students and handed suspended sentences to 59 for their part in pro-North Korean unrest in August. (Reuters)

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British discover they are polls apart from US campaigners

Boston: Senior British politicians have been making unannounced visits to the United States recently to pick up tips. Brian Mawhinney has been in Washington, while Peter Mandelson was at the last presidential debate in San Diego, where he was introduced to President Clinton (Machiavelli meets "The Prince"). My own, more down-to-earth impression from watching congressional races in the northeast — and the dying embers of the presidential contest — is that there is as much for British politicians to avoid as to copy.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

First, even nice guys turn nasty when a race gets close. In Massachusetts, the two main Senate candidates have impressive records of public service — the incumbent Democrat John Kerry over two terms and William Weld, the Republican challenger, during six years so far as Governor. Mr Weld combines tax-cutting with support for choice in abortion and gay and minority rights — "against government in your

pockets and in your bedroom". Mr Kerry, a Vietnam hero turned opponent of the war, has done much to defuse the emotive issue of American servicemen missing there. The two even agreed a cap on their campaign budgets. However, with opinion polls showing them level, the affable Mr Weld launched a blitz of adverts about Mr Kerry's "demon eyes" campaign against Tony Blair was widely criticised, but it helped to undermine his personal rating. Third, debates between candidates are fine in theory as a

means of enlightening voters, but are often less illuminating in practice. In the two presidential debates and a couple of others I have seen here, the candidates played safe, talking across each other and regurgitating rehearsed lines. Everyone repeats current fashions about being tough on crime and favouring welfare reform. Monday night's debate between Mr Kerry and Mr Weld was the eighth they have held since April. It was lively but it exaggerated their real differences, presenting them almost as matters of personal pique

rather than substance. In Britain, the Tory and Labour leaders are used to confronting each other in the Commons, but such a confrontational style might alienate voters in an election debate. My hunch is that nothing will happen. Fourth, the more the parties concentrate on television advertisements and soundbites on the evening news, the less anything else matters. The fight, and expensive, New Jersey race — costing \$6 million (£3.7 million) to \$8 million for each candidate — is turning entirely on rival ad-

vertisements. Hardly anyone appears when the candidates tour the state. Open meetings and hecklers are now history. That is why John Major's "soap box" outings in 1992 were so unusual, and they succeeded in emphasising his fighting qualities. Will they work again? Fifth, candidates should be wary of big-name celebrities. They can make politicians look small. Mr Kerry was totally overshadowed by Jesse Jackson at a rally in a black church. Mr Weld has used his position as Governor to launch a car number plate

featuring Ted Williams, one of the all-time greats of baseball. In Boston, however, the 51-year-old Governor looked like an embarrassed schoolboy when the 78-year-old Williams recalled meeting a former Governor and Mayor, the rascally James Michael Curley, who once won an election while in prison and was the model for the novel *The Last Hurrah*. Fortunately, politicians cannot always predetermine what happens.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
PETER RIDDELL

Democrats forced to capitulate over party benefactors

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Democratic Party last night capitulated in the face of a threatened Republican lawsuit and reversed an unprecedented refusal to publish a list of its financial contributors before election day next Tuesday.

The Democratic National Committee's climbdown came after Haley Barbour, the Republican chairman, called the refusal a blatant violation of electoral law by a party guilty of serious wrongdoing. He announced plans to seek a temporary restraining order preventing the DNC from spending any more money in the campaign's final week.

Chris Dodd, the Democratic Party chairman, denied that his party had anything to hide or that the DNC had a legal obligation to file a report with the Federal Election Commission listing all contributions and expenditure between October 1 and 16.

However, his party's obvious reluctance to disclose its contributors during those two weeks coincided with fresh evidence that the Democrats may have solicited huge illegal foreign donations in return for political favours.

The Clinton Administration admitted that the Justice Department was investigating charges that America's defence ambassador to Taiwan

— an Arkansan appointed by President Clinton — had put pressure on Taiwanese officials and businessmen to give money in return for American support for their country. The DNC has already been criticised for accepting six-figure gifts from Indonesian and South Korean businessmen.

It seemed unlikely that the late-breaking scandal would hinder Mr Clinton's seemingly effortless cruise towards re-election. A *Los Angeles Times* poll yesterday showed that only one in five respondents believed the Democrats had engaged in serious wrongdoing, while 54 per cent considered the party's acceptance of such contributions "politics as usual".

However, evidence that Democrats skirted the law is becoming daily more compelling, and almost invariably centres on John Huang, a former Commerce Department official who subsequently became one of the DNC's top fundraisers.

Two weeks ago the DNC was forced to suspend Mr Huang after several six-figure contributions he had obtained from Indonesian and South Korean businessmen turned out to be illegal or highly questionable. American law bars foreign contributions unless the donors are legal residents. Mr Huang immedi-

ately vanished. Judicial Watch, a conservative group investigating whether the Commerce Department had used overseas trade missions to solicit donations to the Democrats, obtained a subpoena requiring his testimony. Mr Huang's lawyer said his client would not surface until after the elections, but late last week an exasperated federal judge instructed the reluctant DNC to order Mr Huang to report for work on Monday so the subpoena could be served.

The same judge rejected a petition by Mr Huang's lawyer that the questioning should be limited in scope and kept secret. Mr Huang was testifying yesterday and Judicial Watch planned to release a videotape of his evidence last night.

Mr Huang was also involved in the alleged Taiwanese donations. The Justice Department's criminal division is investigating charges that James Wood, America's unofficial ambassador to Taiwan, aggressively sought contributions from Taiwanese officials and businessmen as a reward for the Clinton Administration's support for Taiwan, and steered them towards Mr Huang, who visited Taiwan last May. The United States does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan.



President Clinton holds on to his wedding ring, which came loose after he reached into a crowd during a campaign meeting in Chicago

School head beat the clock to cheat in exams

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE head of a night school has been accused of an audacious cheating scam (Quentin Letts writes). Prosecutors said that George Kobayashi hired stooges to sit tests on the east coast of the United States. On leaving the examination hall, they are said to have telephoned the questions to Mr Kobayashi who was on the west coast. He then passed the information to pupils who, thanks to the three-hour

time difference between New York and California, had yet to start the same papers. The answers to the tests were inscribed on pencils by a team of assistants, using a code. Mr Kobayashi distributed the pencils to his pupils who gathered at a central location before dispersing to carefully scattered examination centres so as to avoid arousing suspicion by their high pass rates.

Mr Kobayashi, 45, was arrested on suspicion of fraud and faces up to ten years in prison and a fine of up to

\$250,000 (£155,000). His alleged ruse was uncovered only when an FBI agent signed up at one of his schools to secure himself a place on a postgraduate course which he hoped would win him promotion.

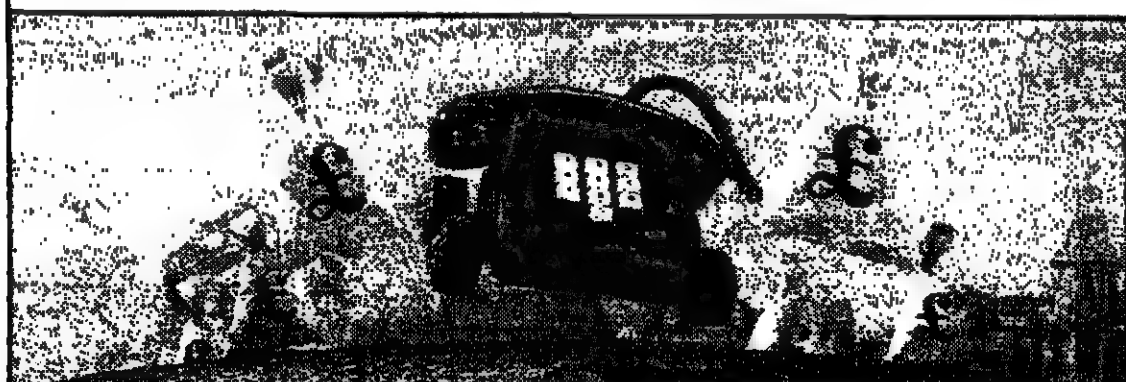
Mr Kobayashi, whose schools promised students a "unique method" of examination preparation, charged \$6,000 for fiddled graduate school admissions tests, prosecutors said. Pupils were told that a pass was guaranteed, but if they suspected that this was merely an expression of

confidence in the schools' teaching methods, they were soon put right when they were advised by Mr Kobayashi to take a flight to California and sit the exam there.

It is thought that several hundred people used Mr Kobayashi's alleged extra service. Mary Jo White, US attorney in Manhattan, said: "The victims are not just the universities but the honest students who perhaps did not get into the school of their choice because they were displaced by those who cheated."

The great escape.

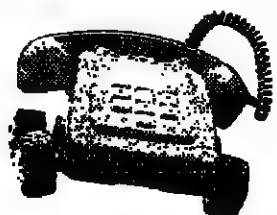
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675mph crash ends record attempt

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

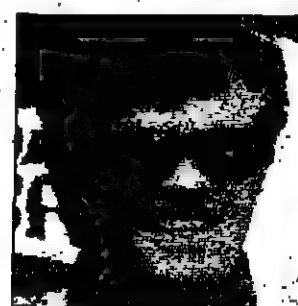
HURLING at nine-tenths the speed of sound across the bare waste of Nevada's Black Rock Desert, Craig Breedlove was within seconds of setting a new world land speed record when he survived a terrifying crash that left his dart-shaped

jet car intact but unusable. Powered by a supersonic fighter engine, the \$5 million (£3.1 million) *Spirit of America* was travelling at 675 mph, far faster than the current record, when a cross-wind rocked its rear wheels and sent the car into a U-turn.

The accident happened six miles into a straight ten-mile

course moments after Mr Breedlove, 59, ignited the car's powerful afterburner for the first time. As the car spun, he managed to deploy its parachute brake while still moving at more than 600 mph.

His top speed was unofficial since records must be the average of two runs in opposite directions.



Breedlove: unscathed

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Besieged Kabul mullahs defy Koran to launch jihad against 'bad Muslim' opponents

Taleban set for a 'final offensive' to seize north

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

THE Taleban rulers of Kabul claimed last night that they were ready for a final offensive into northern Afghanistan to capture the remaining one-third of the country. "The backbone of the enemy is broken," it declared.

This seems a hollow boast since the huge army of General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern warlord, is hardly scathed, let alone broken.

Mullah Muhammad Mutaqi, the Information and Culture Minister, said troops were dug in and awaiting the order from Mullah Muhammad Omar, the Taleban chief, to begin the advance. Afghanistan would soon be a united country. A jihad was under way to clear the last enemies of Taleban, he said.

The Koran says a jihad cannot be declared against

towards Taleban in Pakistan, where there is a growing sense that the mullahs have made Afghanistan a laughing stock by their extremism and capricious rule-making.

Central Asia is worried that Taleban will export its revolution across the border despite Mullah Mutaqi's assertion yesterday that Taleban will not offer assistance to Islamic extremists in Tajikistan. Central Asia and Russia are almost certainly helping General Dostum to re-arm and re-equip, since he alone is capable of halting the Islamic army's advance northwards.

Aerial bombing by Taleban north of Kabul appears to be designed to smash the only road out of the Panjshir Valley, headquarters of the former government forces led by General Ahmed Shah Ma-

The mullahs in Kabul have made Afghanistan a laughing stock

sood. He retreated from the capital last month but his tanks and artillery are believed to be trapped inside the valley because of the destruction of the road through the narrow gorge. Taleban claimed that 150 enemy troops had died in fighting close to Kabul and that more than 400 had been injured; only two of its force had died. It claimed to be in control of Badkhis province in the west, a Dostum province. General Dostum rejects both this claim and the casualty figures.

Mullah Mutaqi claimed that some of General Dostum's commanders had defected to Taleban. This is entirely possible since militia commanders routinely swap sides for money, proving the adage that an Afghan can be rented but not bought.

"When Taleban forces entered any part of the country the majority of the people took their side because they were sick of corrupt rule," Mullah Mutaqi said. This is a valid statement, except in Kabul, which continues to hate Taleban's Islamic dogma.

Peace talks from yesterday opened a regional conference in Tehran to seek a solution to the Afghan crisis but Pakistan, a key player in neighbouring Afghanistan, stayed away from the talks. (Reuters)



Taleban fighters examine an unexploded bomb at their base 15 miles north of Kabul. It was dropped by the Dostum-Masood alliance

Plasters and painkillers used to ease agony of child victims

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN CHARIKAR

ABDUL ZAHED, a ten-year-old urchin from Ulang district near the Salang highway, was playing in the mud near his home when he picked up a Taleban butterfly mine which blew off his hand and tore a hole in his stomach.

His distraught father had no option but to take him to the dilapidated hospital in Charikar, a small town a few miles south of the arc of fighting, unremarkable in its rows of mud hut terraces, open sewers and throbbing bazaars.

The hospital's overworked staff were able to saw off his hand at the wrist, sew up the stump, remove most of the fragments from his abdomen and give him a little pain killer to ease his agony. In a day or two, he will have to be discharged to make way for the other casualties who are queuing to take his place.

For those who do not have enough money for treatment in Mazar-i-Sharif, the fly-infested wards of Charikar hospital are all that is available. Dark, damp and riddled with cockroaches and other vermin, it is a wonder how a healthy person could survive even a few days. Sheets of polythene, fixed to rickety wooden frames, serve as make-do windows. Naked light bulbs and bare wires hang from the crumbling ceilings. A pile of blood-stained stretchers lies in a corner. Flies and dust are everywhere and the stench from the lavatories is so overwhelming it is difficult not to vomit if you find yourself downwind of them.

Dr Muhammad Waqub Rasuly,

who runs the hospital when he is not doubling as General Ahmed Shah Masood's physician, is embarrassed by his hospital's filthy state. However, when he was presented with a letter from General Masood's office asking him to co-operate with us, he eventually allowed us to examine the facilities.

Each of the tiny rooms is packed with patients lying on small rickety beds furnished with two-inch-thick



Abdul Zahed's father shares his injured son's suffering

mattresses. All are suffering from terrible head, chest, limb and abdominal wounds: victims of the fighting between Taleban troops and the former government forces trying to retake Kabul, the Afghan capital.

The doctor recites what has become the mantra of hospital administrators all over Afghanistan: "We do not have enough medicines and drugs to treat the people who come to us. Often I have to search in the bazaar to see what I can find. Serious cases can stay with us for ten days. Less serious ones, those with broken or amputated limbs, have to leave after two days."

In another ward lies Obaid Ullah, eight, from the Farza district near Kabul. He lost his leg when he was hit by shrapnel from a Taleban shell during recent fighting. The leg's tattered remnants were removed on the operating table less than an hour ago, and he is dying.

When General Masood pushed Taleban back from the Panjshir Valley to the hills around Kabul, the hospital was inundated with casualties. Dr Rasuly said that as well as the civilians they had to cope with 230 injured Talebs. "We could not deal with them, so we had to send them back to Kabul."

Now that General Masood has renewed his offensive against Taleban in the hills, the hospital is bracing itself for a new flood of casualties. Most will be civilians. Charikar Hospital will be on hand to administer a Band Aid to a bleeding people.

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West Bank tensions rise as crowd riots at Arab boy's funeral

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN HEBRON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISRAELI troops used live ammunition to break up Palestinian rioting which broke out in the occupied West Bank yesterday after the funeral of a ten-year-old Arab boy allegedly beaten to death by a Jewish settler.

The boy's death — the circumstances of which are under dispute — became the focal point of tension whipped up by the failure of American-sponsored negotiations to finalise terms under which Israeli troops can hand over most of Hebron, the last occupied West Bank city, to Palestinian control.

Yesterday Israeli and Palestinian negotiators convened in a Tel Aviv hotel in an effort to keep the talks alive although Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, was in Norway. Dennis Ross, the American envoy who has been mediating the discussions for the past three weeks, returned to Washington yesterday.

Jews and Muslims in the city have accused each other of

stockpiling weapons in advance of the Israeli withdrawal from 85 per cent of the urban area, which American officials still predict will take place before Christmas. Yesterday settlers in Hebron hurled insults and spat at Palestinian Authority leaders visiting the city.

During the funeral about 5,000 mourners vowed to avenge Himi Shosha as his body was laid to rest in his village shortly before the area was placed under Israeli curfew. The scenes of renewed violence underscored the volatile situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where armed clashes last month left 75 dead.

Mourners, angered by the Government's support for the settlers, carried banners saying: "Get the Nazis out of our land" and "the criminal settler must be hanged". The suspect was remanded in custody until Friday. Tensions were unlikely to be eased by the news that the Israeli Government had approved the con-

struction of 8,000 homes in three Jewish settlements on the West Bank in an area 25 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

With leaders of the 450 Jews living in the centre of Hebron and those of the 120,000 Palestinians that surround them both giving warnings of a bloodbath, the newspaper *Maariv* said: "Worrying signs are increasing that the extreme Right might take extreme measures, even against the Netanyahu Government, if and when the Hebron deployment is decided upon."

Although Israeli paratroopers guard every inch of Hebron's "Martyrs' Road" between the Tomb of the Patriarchs and the main Jewish settlement of Beit Hadassah, it is impossible to ignore the loathing in the eyes of passing Arabs who glare from beside such wall slogans as "Death to the Jews".

The stubbornness and extremism of Hebron's Jews is matched by that of its fervent Islamic Arab residents.



The aftermath of the Gulf War as seen from the *Atlantis* space shuttle. Plumes of black smoke rise into space from Kuwaiti oil fields set on fire by retreating Iraqi troops



Burning oil fields in Kuwait threatened ecological disaster

Spacemen's view of scorched earth policy

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THREE giant palls of smoke reach up from Kuwait into space. This photograph, *The Aftermath of the Gulf War*, was taken in April 1991 from the *Atlantis* shuttle, on the shuttle's first flight after the end of the war two months earlier.

Astronauts Jerry Ross and Ken Cameron woke up early in order to take the picture of the burning oil fields, one of the earliest and most vivid

testimonies to the damage inflicted by Iraq. Iraqi troops set fire to numerous well heads as they retreated in the face of intense Allied attacks.

The picture is included in a 224-page book of photographs taken by astronauts out of personal interest rather than technical requirements during the past 34 years. *Orbit: NASA astronauts photograph the earth* is published by National Geographic.

Israelis appalled by tasteless line in 'Nazi' fashion

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

MANY of Israel's Holocaust survivors were outraged yesterday by reports that a new fashion has hit the country and is being snapped up by fashion-conscious young Israelis: boots, purses and shoes made out of shiny black leather that bears the brand name "Nazi".

The tasteless new fad, among a younger generation already shocking older Israelis by its reluctance to serve in the army, was disclosed on the front page of the biggest selling Tel Aviv newspaper *Yediot Aharonot*.

The newspaper quoted salesmen and saleswomen explaining to their Jewish customers: "This is a shiny black leather material, which is called 'Nazi' after the leather boots worn by the Nazis. The models have just come out and they will be the hit of the winter."

Significantly, a reporter found that in one shop belonging to the popular Grosse Mode fashion chain, the name "Nazi" was clearly printed on a shoe box as well as on the soles of the shoes.

The owner of the chain of boutiques told the newspaper: "The name 'Nazi leather' has become fashionable in many

places, not only in our stores. Phone the manufacturer of the shoes and ask them what is going on."

A *Yediot* investigation found that the new material was also the rage in young women's purses. It said that trendy Israeli customers were asking for the leather by its "Nazi" brand-name in shops and that there were Israeli sales staff actively trying to promote the fashion despite its terrible historical connotations.

In one shop visited by Ma Shalom, she reported that a salesgirl tried to persuade me to purchase one of the new purses. "It is high quality material and does not get dirty," she said. "All of the boots worn by the Nazis during the Second World War were made out of this material."

Many Israelis have been shocked by the newspaper report. "I just cannot believe what I am reading and hearing," said a Jewish businesswoman who emigrated from Manchester 25 years ago. "To think that this is happening here is incredible and a deep insult to the six million Jews who died at the hands of the Nazis."

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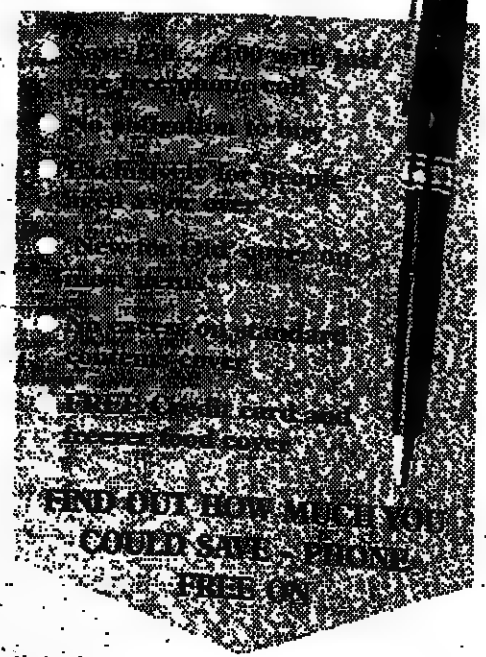
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Economists claim Germany will fail to hit EMU target

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY will fail to make the grade for European monetary union on two counts, according to a forecast yesterday by the country's six leading economic institutes.

The assessment sent politicians and central bankers into a spiral of panic that either the entry criteria would have to be diluted or the start-up date delayed.

The prognosis was not all bad: the institutes believe that the German economy will grow by 1.5 per cent in 1996 and 2.5 per cent next year, and that inflation will stay low, at around 1.5 per cent.

But the public deficit will reach 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product — significantly higher than the 3 per cent benchmark set by the Maastricht treaty for single currency candidates.

And public debt will exceed the 60 per cent of GDP prescribed by Maastricht. That would, in effect, derail the whole European monetary union project — if figures alone were the decisive element — since it cannot function without Germany.

The Finance Ministry, working on substantially the same economic data, has calculated that the public deficit could be kept at around 2.5 per cent — that is within the Maastricht criteria. But the independent economists, representing forecasting centres

in Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Kiel, Halle and Essen, cannot work out how the ministry has come up with such an optimistic reading.

In 1997 — even taking into account the already announced financial measures — an additional DM15 billion (£6 billion) would have to be saved in order to meet the reference values set by the Maastricht treaty, says the report.

Since the Bonn coalition has come close to breaking point over the past week on even the existing rather modest spending cuts, it seems unlikely that the Kohl government will manage to scratch together the additional funds.

A measure of the German mood was the alacrity with which six Christian Democrat deputies, accompanying Chancellor Kohl on a tour of the Far East, have broken off their trip to return to Bonn.

An emergency debate on the budget and its shortfalls will be held today, in the absence of the Chancellor. The coalition of Christian Democrats and Free Democrats is at loggerheads, especially over tax reform. The Christian Democrats want to raise some taxes, increase revenue and reduce the need for further borrowing; the Free Democrats believe they can survive at the ballot box only if they are clearly identified as the

tax-cutting party. The cracks in the government alliance are likely to be exposed today.

Yesterday the Bundesbank entered the fray. A member of the Central Bank Board, Klaus Dieter Kühbacher, said: "No government can afford to diverge from the goal of a stable currency merely to gain domestic political advantage."

Major tribune John Major made a modest contribution to the growing personality cult of Herr Kohl with a gentle, written tribute and a plea that differences over Europe should not mar the Anglo-German relationship. In the introduction to an eight-page supplement on Britain, published by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Mr Major accused the media of distorting the true nature of Anglo-German friendship.

"The reality is quite different — on all levels. Chancellor Kohl and I are good friends and two of the longest-serving heads of government in Europe." It has been some time since Chancellor Kohl — who this week becomes the longest-serving German leader this century — has referred to Mr Major in such glowing terms. German politicians make no secret that they are waiting for a Labour government or, with even more enthusiasm, a Liberal-Labour pact.



Police evict one of the more than 100 illegal immigrants who occupied a Paris police office yesterday demanding residence permits and a halt to expulsions. Police said several protesters, including women with young children, were taken away in vans for

Immigrants in Paris sit-in

checks at police headquarters. This summer some 300 Africans occupied a Paris church for two months,

claiming controversial 1993 laws had turned them into illegal immigrants. The Government granted residence permits to many of them on humanitarian grounds but others are still waging court battles to avoid expulsion. (Reuters)

Nato tries to reassure Russia on missiles

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO has no spare nuclear missiles to deploy to the territory of any new members of the alliance from Eastern Europe, Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, admitted yesterday.

His statement during an interview in Brussels with Interfax, the Russian news agency, was intended to reassure Russia that the alliance was not planning to base nuclear forces in Eastern Europe once Nato had opened its doors to new members by the end of 1999.

The issue of deploying Nato conventional and nuclear forces into putative alliance member states such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic has been a key point of concern in Moscow. However, Solana said: "Nato has no spare nuclear missiles. We do not plan to deploy them on the territories of the countries which may receive invitations to join Nato."

At present, nuclear bombs are based in most European members of the alliance. The United States has modified versions of the B61 air-launched nuclear bomb in bases throughout Europe, although Norway and Denmark are nuclear-free countries within the alliance.

Despite recent reports to the contrary, defence sources confirmed yesterday that there were still a few US nuclear bombs stored in Britain. In the past the Americans have stored about 500 nuclear bombs in European countries, including Britain, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy and Spain. According to Nato sources, there are now about 200 American nuclear free-fall bombs in Europe, with each country allocated a few to demonstrate the principle of sharing responsibility.

Moscow has called for guarantees that Nato nuclear forces will never be deployed in Eastern Europe. Yesterday, as part of his attempt to reassure Moscow of Nato's desire to develop new security relations with Russia, Solana said that he hoped to sign a deal on future relations between Russia and the Western alliance, possibly in the form of a charter.

Cairo ruins yield more survivors

Cairo: Samantha Miksche, 17, an American, and Noha Fawzi, 20, her Egyptian friend, were found alive in the ruins of a 12-storey Cairo block of flats, 36 hours after it collapsed on Sunday, killing at least 19 people.

Rescue workers using sniffer dogs were said also to have located an unknown number of other survivors and were trying to free them. Rescuers said that three more bodies were found yesterday — an Egyptian man, woman and child. (AFP)

British soldiers shot at in Cyprus

Nicosia: Two uniformed Royal Engineers on maintenance work were fired on by Turkish Cypriot forces when they strayed a few yards into Turkish-held territory in Cyprus (Our Foreign Staff writes). Neither was hurt. In Limassol, a judge and his daughter, five, were hurt when a bomb exploded under their car, police said.

Kurdish blast

Ankara: A Kurdish woman suicide bomber who had been detained by police on Turkey's national day yesterday succeeded in killing herself and four others in the Turkish town of Sivas. (Reuters)

Somali attack

Mogadishu: Unidentified gunmen killed 13 people and wounded 16 in an attack on a south Mogadishu restaurant in an area loyal to Somali faction leader Hussein Aidid. (Reuters)

Asia trade fears

Sydney: Tension between Australia and its Asian neighbours is growing in a row over immigration. John Howard, the Prime Minister, accused Asian newspapers of misrepresenting his views. (Reuters)

Stargazer dies

Paris: Madame Soleil, the most famous astrologer in France, whose predictions were broadcast for more than 20 years and who reputedly advised Francois Mitterrand, has died here, aged 83. (AFP)

Author takes aim at new 'Jackal' film

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES



Forsyth's studio attacked

THE writer Frederick Forsyth has launched a scathing attack on Universal Pictures over its plans for a new screen version of one of his books, *The Day of the Jackal*, that he says contains "not one single element of the original".

Mr Forsyth's book, and the classic 1973 film based on it starring Edward Fox, was about a lone assassin's attempt on the life of Charles de Gaulle, the French President. The new film is about a former IRA hitman who is

hired to kill the head of the FBI.

"You appear to have accepted an original screenplay and to be tacking on to it an internationally known title," Mr Forsyth wrote in a letter to Greg Medel, a senior Universal executive. "Would you seriously contemplate a film about a Washington-based weather forecaster and call it *A Man for All Seasons*?"

Mr Forsyth's skirmish in the creative world's age-old battle for intellectual property

rights adds weight to an earlier attack on Universal by Frederick Zinnemann, 89, the director of the original film, who has accused the studio of hijacking the title. "Beware the anger of a patient man," he told the *Los Angeles Times* at the weekend, likening Universal to a lunatic smashing art in a museum. "I am a patient man but I'm in a state of rage about this."

The studio is legally immune, however, since it owns the rights to the book.

Albania wins back £13m of looted gold

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MORE than 50 years after the Nazis looted its treasury, Albania yesterday took possession of more than 11,000 lb of gold, worth nearly £13 million, that has been stored in the vaults of the Bank of England. The ingots are expected to be shipped back to Tirana before the end of the year.

After a day of talks with a high-level Albanian delegation, Emrys Davies, the Secretary General of the Tripartite

Gold Commission set up by the Western Allies at the end of the Second World War, said: "This is the last major single share of the commission's gold pool to be settled. The commission will proceed with preparations for the final distribution of the remaining gold to the claimant Governments."

Ten Governments will receive gold from Britain and America, where it has been stored since 1946.

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When the Boss of bosses holds court

The world of fashion is not unfamiliar with sponsorship deals. Our designers rely on such diverse benefactors as Tanqueray Gin, Marks & Spencer, Absolut Vodka, Bhs, Motorola and Debenhams to stage their catwalk presentations. British Fashion Week has grown in stature season upon season thanks to the continued support of Vidal Sassoon and only last week Lloyds Bank presented the British Fashion Awards at the Royal Albert Hall in London for the sixth year running.

Tomorrow night Hugo Boss, the giant German menswear fashion company, will lend its support not to British fashion but to British theatre. In a joint initiative with *The New Yorker* magazine they are sponsoring a glam-packed gala benefit in aid of The Royal Court Theatre, an event that officially will mark the start of the theatre's renovation.

"We hope this event will help to keep the Royal Court's spirit of creativity alive," says Peter Littmann, chairman and CEO of Hugo Boss AG. "The achievements of the theatre company, particularly its



Fashion journalist of the year
IAIN R. WEBB

reputation for fostering new talent, ties in perfectly with the philosophies behind Hugo Boss's commitment to arts projects." The company has a long-term partnership with the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

The benefit will feature original cast members in scenes from some of the Royal Court's major productions. A fashionable spin to Hugo Boss's funding plan means that the Royal Court's artistic director, Stephen Daldry, will be dressed exclusively by the German clothing company for a year.

The Royal Court company is operating between The Ambassadors and the Duke of York's Theatre in London's West End. Their first production at the Duke of

York's is *Mojo*, a play by Jez Butterworth set in the twilight world of 1950s Soho.

Backstage the all-male cast of *Mojo* eagerly size up a rail laden with Hugo Boss suits. Dressed in combinations of black, silver grey and creamy white, the actors begin to resemble their shady stage characters: the pointy-collared shirts and sharp-as-a-razor suits that act as an alternative to conventional eveningwear certainly have a gangster feel.

"I'm not exactly a suit man," says Darren Tighe, yet he is happy to wear a shiny silver-grey three-piece suit and matching shirt.

Not that these actors haven't had a brush with fashion. On stage both Neil Stuke and Callum Dixon wear made-to-measure suits by celebrity Soho tailor Mark Powell, who counts Kate Moss and Mick Jagger among his clientele.

"Pleat peg trousers and shorter jackets — very Italian," says Stuke as he reclines in the front row of the stalls wearing an ivory white suit, black shirt and off-white tie, moodily chewing a matchstick. "Method modelling," says a voice in the wings.

NEIL STUKE

Above: Stage credits include *The Philanderer* and *View from a Bridge* alongside television appearances on *Between the Lines*, wears white suit, £520, black shirt, £36, cream silk tie, £39, Hugo.

DARREN TIGHE

Above left: Never off the small screen in *Cracker* and *A Touch of Frost*, wears metallic three-piece suit, £480, metallic shirt, £89, Boss.

PAUL REYNOLDS

Above right: Has appeared in everything from *Absolutely Fabulous* to *Punk's Not Dead* at the Edinburgh Festival, wears black shiny jacket, £325, white cotton shirt, £75, Boss.

CALLUM DIXON

Above far right: Off-stage credits include the film *Waterlands*, wears a black creased jacket, £325, matching trousers, £130, pleated wing-collared shirt, £95, blue bow-tie (part of set with cummerbund) £79, Boss.

SIMON KUNZ

Right: Lists *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Barnstorming* and *King Lear* among his stage appearances, wears cream evening jacket and black side-strip trousers (sold as suit), £550, black poplin shirt, £59, Boss.

Hugo and Boss available from Boss, 184 Regent Street, W1, 16 King Street, Manchester, 55 Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Photographs by ROGER CHARITY. Grooming by Kevin Ford.



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Nigella Lawson on the working mother's dilemma: plus, the first woman to join the Tory Whips Office

Childcare: the taboo and the hypocrisy



The closest bond of all — but does this baby really need its mother available all day?

A couple of weeks or so ago, when writing about new research on abortion, I castigated those people with an agenda who refused to consider evidence if it pointed to truths they found unpalatable. Now, I find myself constrained as never before. For I run the risk of offending my friends.

Perhaps it would be to overstate the case to describe the pamphlet by the Institute of Economic Affairs on the damaging effects on children of being put into daycare by working mothers as 'evidence', but just because its findings are opinion, and very much ideologically driven, doesn't mean we should dismiss them. The reason I now run the risk of offending my friends is because all of my contemporaries go out to work. Consequently, my generation has a vested interest in proving that this does not harm children. Unfortunately, just because we wish something to be, doesn't make it so.

I am not saying that going out to work does damage children, but it must affect them. And I do feel a rather Blair-like equivocation on this one. I don't think I could go out all day, and I certainly wouldn't want to, but I feel passionately that it's not for me to dictate how other women lead their lives. Besides, as I am constantly reminded, and accept without question, I am very lucky: I get the best of both worlds. I can earn money without having to leave my children; my life is deeply, pleasurably domestic

and yet I feel I exist in the outside world, too.

I concede that most women don't have these options, but the subject must still be faced. And there is so much not spewed on this one: everyone has something to prove. Those who stay at home (or, more often, exhort others to do so) are smug in their assumed superiority; those who go out to work are defensively resistant to the idea that their children might suffer as a result.

It is true that small children want to be with their mothers. Uncomfortable as it is to admit in the modern ideological climate, they are disconcertingly untroubled by the routine absence (as opposed to permanent non-presence) of their fathers. In fact, children now — at least those of the professional middle classes — are in many ways better off than we and those before us were.

Fathers now are unquestionably more involved in childcare. This has to be a good thing, benefiting father, child and mother.

But the stakes are high in this particular debate — indeed, there are none higher — and it is hardly surprising if everyone argues a little too hysterically. Lynne Burrows, writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*, exemplifies a certain sort of misguided passion by arguing that "the chief cause of juvenile delinquency is the working woman".

There are a few confused prejudices here. The career woman — selfish, ambitious,



Nigella Lawson

unwilling to make the necessary sacrifices for her children and family — is a familiar figure of abuse.

But we all know that it is not the children of such women who are the juvenile delinquents Lynne Burrows has in mind. These are more likely to be the children of the long-term unemployed, whose fathers, if they are around at all, are out of work, and whose mothers need to earn what they can to keep the family going. If they don't go out to work, then they need to be supported by the State and are then written-off as workshy scroungers. Either way around, a woman's place is in the wrong.

But there are hard truths about going out to work and leaving children all day. Not

least, that it is very much harder to be a mother. Quality time is phooey, an Eighties concept designed to make us all feel better. Not only do children not appreciate the odd ten minutes or two hours that parents can graciously give them, it is much harder for the parents, too. The truth is, parents who spend little time with their children feel they have to be a lot nicer to them. In other words, the problem is not so much that of neglect, than of indulgence.

If you spend all day with a child, it is easier to risk being hated. And one has to be hated some of the time: children may benefit by being treated firmly, but they hardly thank you for it. But if you see your child for only a few hours at breakfast and bedtime and at weekends, then you won't want to risk any conflict in that time: you will want to enjoy being with them and have them enjoy being with you. But instead of making for an easier, more harmonious time, it inevitably leads to more conflict: parents who are afraid that by checking their children they will be disliked for it, give in to them. This, in the long term, makes children more rather than less likely to have tantrums.

We accuse working mothers of visiting all forms of ill on their children, but it wasn't always so. Women with children, widowed and left penniless in the war, who worked all hours to bring up their children, were applauded as plucky, the backbone of their families and the country. So what is different now? The

family. Women who went out to work then could rely on their own mothers, aunts, sisters and so forth to help with the children. Few of us have that now.

And as I said last week, 13-year-old Sarah Taylor, with her large family, has, in this one respect, an advantage over her contemporaries.

It is all very well to demonise childcare, but the nanny or, perhaps even more, the childminder, is probably the best stand-in for the extended family. Daycare centres are less easy to celebrate. Rather than promising affordable daycare centres, the Government should subsidise and encourage more registered childminders. That way, at least, children would be placed each day in a family environment.

Professional working mothers are so attacked that they are running for comfort, telling themselves and others that they long to stay at home, if only they had the choice.

"The great taboo," this was called in a magazine recently: more like the great hypocrisy. There are many women who work because they have no choice, but those who bang on about how unhappy they are doing so, do not — in my experience — belong to that category. These are the ones who want to work (and there is nothing wrong in that), but just don't want to be criticised for it. It is not the working mother, but the self-deluding mother who runs the greatest risk of damaging her children.

'Miss Whiplass' takes control

Deep inside the Gothic corridors of the Palace of Westminster lies a dingy room filled with cigar smoke, testosterone, intrigue and suspense. Most Tory MPs dread a summons to this room. Potential rebels scuttle past the door and defectors give it an even wider berth. This is the Conservative Whips Office, the reputed repository of the little black book, detailing the sexual and financial misdemeanours of MPs, and the place where the Tory hierarchy wields its sticks and carrots in daily pursuit of an increasingly elusive government majority.

No woman has ever joined this inner sanctum. Even Margaret Thatcher never got to swing her handbag here. But now, more than three quarters of a century after Winston Churchill said that a woman in the House of Commons was like a woman in his bathroom, the last parliamentary male bastion has fallen. This summer Jacqui Lait became the first woman to be asked by the Tory whips to join their band of brothers and last week she took up her post.

If the men thought she

Better quality wine and less whingeing. Alice Thomson interviews Jacqui Lait

would tip-toe timidously through the first few days in her new role, they were wrong. She may have been wearing a powder-pink suit, but within seconds Mrs Lait had her feet on the desk, her extra-large Kleenex in the top drawer and was complaining about the lack of a kettle. She volunteered for one of the toughest jobs, trawling the tea-room to talk to recalcitrant backbenchers and she roared with laughter when *The Sun* dubbed her Miss Whiplass.

Her colleagues in the Whips Office say she is already one of the boys. Ambitious MPs on the outside, who all compete for this pivotal first step towards a ministerial career, claim that she may have been one all along.

They whisper that she has never had any children, let alone changed a nappy, her hair looks as though it was cut by the House barber, she has a deeper voice than Nicholas Soames and she drives a very masculine Jaguar. They also mutter that when she arrived



Jacqui Lait: "Whipping, like stripping, is best done in private"

with the 1992 intake, she had the temerity to complain not about the paucity of ladies' loos but the quality of the wine. But meeting Mrs Lait for lunch it is soon apparent that she is not the female shotput of the House of Commons. She is strong, attractive, and engagingly frank.

She admits the story about wine is true. "When I arrived at Westminster all there was was this awful Italian wine lake stuff in two-litre bottles. A woman likes a nice glass of wine with her plate of cheese, so yes I did complain," she says.

On children she is equally blunt. "I remember when I was about 12 walking down the High Street and watching all these young mothers with whingeing babies. It put my teeth on edge and I thought, 'I never want one of those. I would end up battering it.' The sentiment stuck. I have

been married 22 years and I have absolutely no maternal instincts. When my husband proposed, I was thrilled but the first thing I asked him was "Do you want to have children? Because I have other things I want to do." My mother puts it down to the fact that my father died when I was 12 and I helped to bring up my younger brothers, so I have done it once."

Mrs Lait thinks her career has been made "massively easier" because she didn't have children but she says that shouldn't disqualify her from the female race. She doesn't like shopping but makes her own clothes instead and gets her hair cut by Robert at the Berkeley every three weeks.

The daughter of two textile agents in Renfrewshire, she was educated at Paisley Grammar School before

Strathclyde University. "I've wanted to be an MP since I was eight, when my godmother Pat Hornsby-Smith, then Tory MP for Chisleworth, took me round this place and I was smitten. It got me in the gut."

But getting selected was difficult. The blue-rose shire ladies were looking for eligible bachelors or married men they could respect. She didn't find a seat until her early forties, working meanwhile for the Government Information Service and then running her own lobbying company.

She didn't read Machiavelli before taking up the whip's job but she did spend the summer working out some tactics in between opening files. "There are different ways of being tough, some people respond to hard man, soft man tactics, some to persuasion and others like to be flattered," she says. Her Paisley voice can either be wonderfully soothing or terrifying and she is mixed with lots of "bless you".

She is one of a rare breed of politicians who is not trying to jump on the moral bandwagon. But she will not mollify any male MP who admits to an affair and is very aware that one of her duties is to stamp on sleaze. "Women are working too hard to have affairs here. Men should follow their example," she says briskly. She also expects them to dress properly and to control themselves in the House. "This is a place of dignity and respect and they must treat it as such."

She is not allowed to talk about policy any more and refuses to confirm whether there is a black book. Whipping, like stripping, she reminds you, is best done in private.

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The real scandal of our schools

Melanie Phillips defends her critique of moral relativism

Britain is in the grip of a culture war. In one camp are the libertarians, who won't distinguish between good and bad behaviour because they think the equality of free choices is sacrosanct. In the other are those who think judgement between right and wrong and an assertion of the common good are essential for a civilised social ethic. These divisions explain the ferocity with which my book about education, *All Must Have Prizes*, has been received. Much of the reaction by the education establishment and other cultural custodians has been hysterical and personally malicious. Many teachers and parents, on the other hand, say they endorse every word.

The book argues that moral norms have frayed because of a breakdown of the role of education in nurturing the young. It was once axiomatic that parents and teachers had a duty to transmit to the young a body of knowledge and values, to initiate them into their culture and into the human condition itself. Now, however, the moral hierarchy which set adults in authority over children has been eroded. The idea that there is any superior wisdom or authority to be transmitted has been undermined, with catastrophic effects in the classroom no less than in family life.

There are many very good teachers and excellent schools, just as many parents are giving their children a sound upbringing. But the cards are stacked against them. Their authority has been weakened by moral and cultural relativism, which has relocated authority from institutions such as families, churches and schools to the individual. Now all of us, including children, feel entitled to be our private moral authority.

Teachers have become victims of this subjectivity, along with their pupils, since this free-for-all has sounded the retreat from teaching and from knowledge itself. Educational orthodoxy holds that the teacher is no longer the key to unlocking the mysteries of the world. Instead, children must discover history or science or maths for themselves. The child's creativity is regarded as the highest good, and rules and facts are falsely portrayed as enemies of that creativity.

Many primary teachers don't understand how children learn to read, or that the great majority can do so quite quickly, regardless of their social circumstances, provided they are taught properly. They don't know this because teacher training colleges give them a thinly veiled ideology designed to transfer "power" from teacher to pupil. Educational texts aimed at teachers of initial reading contain mind-bending redefinitions of reading itself. Guessing the rough meaning of words through picture clues or by memorising words from having stories read over and over again is considered "readable behaviour". Errors aren't corrected, and actual reading ability measurable by tests is dismissed as merely reading "decontextualised print" — which most people would take to be what reading actually is.

The belief that teaching any rules at all is "Gradingism" has meant that many children aren't taught the structure of language or the immutable certainties of mathematics. The result is that professors report that students with record numbers of A grades at A-level are unable to cope with degree work and have to join remedial classes to learn what once would have been taught to 12-year-olds. Accuracy and correctness, which are also essential to morality, lie in ruins in mainstream educational thinking. Some French GCSE courses, for example, now assume that children need not be taught word-endings, because the aim is merely for them to get the gist. They are expected to pick up grammar by osmosis, just as small children are supposed to learn to read. At the root of all this is a dismaying confusion of roles. Expecting children to make their own way without adequate educational maps is to treat them as premature adults.

Destructive processes are also at work in the family, where rules, structures and boundaries are dissolving in the face of the relentless march of adults' and children's "rights". As children are given adult responsibilities, adults are infantilised. The permanent commitment and care inherent in parental duty have become conditional upon adult "rights" to sexual gratification and personal fulfilment, which have contributed to the fracture of the two-parent family. Parental authority has been undermined by the inappropriate doctrine of children's autonomy, which has made punishment taboo and discipline a dirty word. So at home and at school, the narrative which anchors children in time and place, and against which they can securely define themselves, has fragmented. It is surprising, then, that more and more children seek attention through outrageous or criminal behaviour, and suffer increasing rates of depression, eating disorders, educational underachievement and other signs of confusion and distress.

This betrayal of children has been brought about largely by the self-regarding elites which, despite much pious posturing, display precious little understanding of the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. Leading educationalists who have built their careers on quackery now seek, together with sneering metropolitan and other eminent custodians of the culture, to shut down the argument by denying the evidence of educational, family and moral collapse. So in a further flight from reason and objectivity, the testimony of teachers, examiners, inspectors, university professors, education psychologists, parents and pupils in my book is dismissed as invention or caricature.

The situation is both dangerous and hopeful. The danger is that this political and moral vacuum is vulnerable to demagoguery, and so threatens liberal democracy itself. The hope arises from the anger being expressed by ordinary people, which may give rise to a new politics that will reassess true liberal values.

The author is a columnist for *The Observer*.



Major can come back

The Tories should copy Clinton: forget morality and stick to the economy

When I was in Washington two years ago, Bill Clinton was the most unpopular President in modern history. His approval rating had sunk below 40 per cent. He was mired in sexual and financial sleaze. White House staff dealt in four-letter words. The Republicans had won control of both houses of Congress. Commentators declared that America was returning to the pre-New Deal era. Newt Gingrich was tipped for President. Not one analyst gave Clinton a chance of re-election in 1996.

I was duly convinced that Mr Clinton could not fail. He could not fail because the Republican Congress would not deliver on its half-baked programme and because the budget deficit would ensure an economic boom in time for the 1996 campaign. So it has proved. Washington last week was suffering total amnesia about 1994. Mr Clinton is nowhere to be seen. The economy is in excellent shape and Mr Clinton is about to be re-elected.

Now take a deep breath and return to Britain. Ministers gather each morning in Downing Street like an exhausted repertory troupe, poring over their press notices and wailing at the unfairness of it all. They ask Gillian Shephard stage a mass flogging of every child in the land? Would that do? Should a gibbet be erected in Whitehall for the ritual hanging of single mothers, probation officers, school teachers and handbag owners? What should be some votes in that. Can this ensemble really do a Clinton and win next April?

Of course they can. In a two-horse race the favourite can always stumble. In a democracy there are, as Lady Thatcher said, no final victories. May are there final defeats. The only question asked of clients by enterprise gurus is: do you sincerely want to win? The present Cabinet appears to have given up. Many of its members are fighting a post-election leadership contest, which is a wholly different struggle.

Let us return to the Clinton renaissance. His mid-term standing two years ago seemed desperate — but only seemed so. Analysts misread the President's disapproval rating as reflecting a seismic shift in the political character of America. Yet the Democrats scored exactly the same proportion of the poll in those congressional elections (45 per cent) as they did when Mr Clinton was elected in 1992. The difference in 1992

was that Ross Perot divided the anti-Clinton vote. By the same token, though Mr Clinton's approval rating is now back up to 60 per cent, I still believe he may not win the landslide suggested by the polls. With polls wildly variable, even pollsters are hedging their bets with talk of a 10-point margin of error.

The moral of the story is the old one, that polls can seriously damage your analysis. Back in Britain, the Conservatives appear to be in Mr Clinton's bind of two years ago. As yet, the usual "recovery" as an election approaches has not occurred. There is some evidence of Labour's 20-30 point lead narrowing, but the Tory poll share is not rising. The change lies mainly in the rise in Liberal Democrat fortunes. Even the deepest sceptic of the hypothetical election question — such as myself — must find this a yawning gap.

Nor is there much comfort in that favourite of the pundits, the feel-good story. The precursor to a Tory electoral recovery is usually rising public confidence in the economy. MORI's trend line on this is consistent through the pre-election booms of 1983 and 1987. Britain's economic showing is, as Kenneth Clarke robotically puts it, "a good news story". The electorate is beginning to agree. Economic optimism has been rising since the start of 1995 and the onset of "Cool Britannia". Yet the optimism refuses to leech into poll support for the Tories. It is as if the electorate feels rich enough to risk a Labour victory.

So where's the hope for the Tories? Any late swing to them will have to be of a swing of meteoric speed. But it is starting. MORI slightly and NOP markedly have the gap closing, as it has always closed before. Tory managers are drawing comfort this week from a private poll from James Capel among former Tory voters. The proportion saying they will stay loyal has risen from a mere 36 per cent in April to 50 per cent now, suggesting that the return of the faithful is under way. Among former Tories, Mr Major's personal rating has im-

proved steadily through the summer. The base of this recovery is, of course, alarmingly small, a mere 29-34 per cent of each sample. But remember 1992. People used to pollsters in saying they would vote Labour into office. They pretended not to support what they saw as an unpopular Tory party, and disguised the importance they attached to their wallets in the polling booth. (The economy was in far worse shape then.) Yet the pollsters had Labour back "in the lead" within three months of Mr Major's election victory in 1992. These "invitations to protest", alive with adjustment factors, are deeply suspect. I could as well top ten points off Labour's current lead to adjust for an "increasing propensity to lie", and give the Tories just ten points to close by polling day.

The biggest obstacle to closing the gap is at present the Tory party itself. Only one campaign tactic should be in the frame: to convert the rise in economic optimism into a fear that Labour will wreck it all. This needs the Tory waverers of 1992 to give greater weight to the economy than polls claim they do at present. The economy and taxation are two issues on which the Tories are still ahead of Labour on competence. If 1992 is any guide, an inclination to vote Tory is a hidden secret for these waverers, shared only with the curtain and the pencil of the polling booth. The secret is fear about money, fear for the purse. Perhaps new Labour cannot handle the economy better than old Labour. Perhaps, whatever Mr Blair says, he will indeed increase taxes. The waverer wavers: perhaps I am not doing too badly and should plump for the devil I know. Let others take a risk, I am for security.

Britain's economy is doing remarkably well at present. Apart from the mini-states, it ranks only after America and Japan for competitiveness (according to the World Economic Forum ranking). The Government seems incapable of getting this onto its political platform. Instead it throws mud at itself. Not a day passes without a government spokes-

man bellowing that Britain has gone to the dogs under the Tories. Tory Britain is portrayed as morally barren. Its schools seethe with truancy and violence. Hospitals face financial catastrophe. Streets teem with the detritus of welfare failure. Prisons are bursting with criminality. Legislation is rushed through Parliament each week to control some new moral fungus dropped up by the press. And then ministers whinge that the nation refuses to feel good.

This is ludicrous. Tories have always won elections by telling the public "You've never had it so good", not "You've never been so bad". This used to be the party of prosperity and optimism, not the bleak Dostoevsky's Hall of today's Department of Education or Home Office, telling Britons each day how awful they have become. On education, Labour leads by three to one. The Tories should shut up about schools. Labour leads the Tories on health by six to one. The Tories should shut up about health. Unemployment and welfare "give" Labour a five-to-one lead; even on law and order the parties are neck and neck. All these ministers should be gagged and shackled to their desks.

The Government has two sound assets at present. One is the honesty and likeability of the Prime Minister and his deputy, Michael Heseltine. The other is the state of the economy. In the hands of the Cabinet's next best-known personality, Kenneth Clarke, here is the one remotely plausible core of electoral recovery. Here and nowhere else.

Mr Clinton has rebuilt his popularity this past year on a simple message. The job of government is the prosperity of the people. If you want re-election you must tell them how well they are doing with your help. In America, Democrat strategists have shut down every other issue. Nobody is permitted to mention crime, schools, cities, drugs, welfare. The message is, as always, "the economy, stupid". The British Government, seems to choke on this message. Yet it must persuade the same 43 per cent of the electorate who have loyally supported it at the past four elections to do so again. This patently means putting the nation's current economic prosperity at the centre of the political stage, and ending the insane rant from Downing Street about the state of the public's morals.

Of course the Tories can win the election. They will find it very hard. So why make it harder every day?

Alan Coren



How our great leaders could at last start to earn their keep

I was smoking one of Chairman Mao's cigarettes this morning and gazing at John Major's tie, when something flashed upon that inward eye which is the bliss of solitude, especially for those with 800 words to cobble.

Solitude being what it is, you will immediately appreciate that neither great leader was actually with me, the one being in a mausoleum and in no position to hand his fags round, and the other being in Cabinet and in no position to sit and chew the Cricklow fat, whatever his accessories: the cigarette was Chairman Mao's only insofar as that was its brand name as anyone with a smattering of Mandarin could see from the packet, and the Prime Minister was flashing his tie at me only from the illustration to a newspaper article about the increasing prominence of his neckwear, as anyone with a smattering of nameness could see from the knot.

The packet of Maos had been brought back for me from Peking by a foreign-correspondent friend, together with a couple of those brain-breaking statistics which invariably accompany anything about China — in this case the facts that, as the country's most popular brand, four billion Maos are smoked every day, and that, as a source of profit to the State, which owns the brand, they are worth £5 billion a year. And the reason they are the most popular brand is not down simply to pious reverence for the ex-Chairman, but also to the fact that though he himself smoked 60 of them a day, he did not become ex until he was 83.

How could all this not focus the inward eye upon the matter of Mr Major's smart new knot? For while he may not be held in quite the same gobsmeaked reverence as Mao Tse-tung, some 15 million Britons are currently prepared to vote for his continuation as leader, and that is a lot of ties, especially with Christmas coming up.

Were, therefore, the State to found a neckwear factory to pump out an exclusive John Major range of the sort of spots and stripes calculated instantly to commend themselves to the tastes of his followers, might the Exchequer not find itself sitting on a goldmine second only to the lottery as a source of new funding? Never mind first to the lottery as a source of new employment, for what is one Mystic Meg and one Anthea Turner, compared with 500 hand-knitters?

And why stop there? There is a whole governmental of profit-pregnant euphemisms ready to turn loyal cash-registers into a national carillon. Tell me that there is no market for Heseltine Haircare Products or Pordillo For Him male fragrances, and I will reply that you have as scant a grasp of Torridolour as if you had said that Sir Nicholas Scott could not shift as many cases of Auld Nick Quick-Action Single Malt as the national distillery could turn out, or that a range of Ginny Bottomley lingerie would not drive Janet Reger and La Perla into Carey Street, or that a chain of Colonel Saoumes Kentucky Fried Whole Roast Oxen would not take the nation by storm, or that packets of Mellors would not change the weekend habits of millions.

Nor is it, surely, too late, even now, to bring dewy-eyed millions rushing to handbag counters to snap up Really Big Thatcher, designed not merely to propagandise the new national need to carry fat wads of enterprise proceeds, but also the need to protect these against enemies of law and order who might fancy their mugging chances, only to be laid out cold with a single nostalgic swing.

You will say fine, what a wonderful idea, once again he has stepped into the national breach and saved its bacon, but is there no piece of this visionary action for our great Chancellor of the Exchequer? But of course there is. Because what will this extraordinary generation of unexpected governmental income bring as a further literally golden opportunity for him to introduce those precious votemonogering tax-cuts to which he has hitherto been unwilling to commit himself?

To say nothing of a fair few bob from Kernikin Little Cheroots.

Labour blues

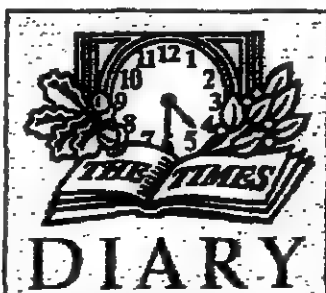
MATTHEW HARDING'S contribution to the Labour Party was not limited to swelling its coffers, it has emerged. The Guinness-drinking vice-chairman of Chelsea FC had been advising Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, on the financial aspects of Labour's manifesto. His death robs the party of one of its best links with the City and in particular, the complex insurance market.

Recent months have seen some aggressive courting of the City by both Brown and his deputy, Alastair Darling. Harding, who had given £600,000 of his promised £1 million to the Labour Party by the time he died last week, met Brown more than once to discuss City policy. When he found time to tear himself away from Stamford Bridge, he was a regular at Tony Blair's dining table.

"He was a useful point of reference in the City," was all Mr Blair's office would say yesterday. Others, however, were more forthcoming on the man who is mourned as much in the City as on the terraces: "Matthew provided Labour with a link with the City," said one

pinstriped. "But more than that, he lent the party credibility where it needs it most."

Bad news for the ENO as it warms up for next month's premiere of Bernd Alois Zimmermann's opera *Die Soldaten*, a huge sprawling German affair. The lead tenor, Jon Garrison, is in hospital with a broken arm and bruised ribs after a jogging acci-



dent. Breathing is difficult for him, and long passages are proving a trial. The Soldaten is full of long passages.

Of opportunity

WITH the presidential election looming in America, there is already talk of likely successors to Admiral William Crowe as Ambassador to London. Crowe, now 71, is expected to retire soon after the election. In recent weeks he has had both the Queen and the Prime Minister round for dinner, an indication that he may be saying his goodbyes.

The most colourful entrant in the race to succeed him is Swannee Hunt, a Texan oil heiress and friend of Hillary Clinton, whose

family have a large stake in the Lanesborough Hotel in London. Some lessons in diplomatic subtlety, however, may be in order for Mrs Hunt. On a recent visit to New Delhi, which comes after London on her list, she was seen measuring the windows at the American Embassy for curtains.

Agent Ashley

OUT OF retirement on behalf of new Labour comes a stalwart of the old school, Sir Ashley Bramall, now aged 80 and the ripest election agent around.

A former member of the Greater London Council, Sir Ashley has



Bramall: party loyalty

been a signed-up Labour man ever since 1935. Elder brother of Field Marshal Lord Bramall, he is campaigning on behalf of Mrs Mair Garside, 65, who stands as a prospective Labour candidate for Westminster City Council next month. "I'm vintage Labour, really," he says, "but I'm a great supporter of Tony Blair."

Half-baked

AMONG the more interesting races for the US Senate is one in Alaska, where the incumbent Republican, Ted Stevens, is being challenged by one Theresa Obermeyer, Democrat.

Mrs Obermeyer, reports the *Congressional Quarterly*, is obsessed with her husband's failure to pass the Alaska bar exam after nearly two dozen attempts. She blames Stevens and follows him to public events where she interrogates him dressed in a prisoner's black-and-white stripes with accompanying ball-and-chain. Stevens has now accused Mrs Obermeyer of stalking him.

This week's *Woman's Weekly* magazine carries an interesting feature about how to minimise the risk of having a heart attack on Ba-



Just modelling

grante, entitled "Make Sex even Safer". Illustrating the piece is this picture of a mature couple, fully clothed and comfortably entwined. The woman gazing alluringly from the page is none other than Sandra Howard, model, and model wife of the Home Secretary. Sadly, the man nuzzling her neck is not her husband.

P.H.S



PLAYING WITH FIREWORKS

Morality in politics has to be handled with care

Since Frances Lawrence launched her manifesto for an ethical renaissance in this newspaper, ministers and shadow ministers have jostled each other for a place in her limelight. Their attempts to have her moral rectitude reflected on them have been alternately opportunistic and clumsy. Yesterday saw an example that was both at once.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, appearing on Radio 4's *Today* programme, seemed to support the idea of corporal punishment being reintroduced in schools. She was trying both to clothe herself in this week's modish moral garments, while simultaneously stealing headlines from her shadow, David Blunkett, who was launching his party's policy on home-school contracts.

By the end of the morning, though, Mrs Shepherd had been publicly slapped down by her own Prime Minister. John Major's spokesman made it quite clear that corporal punishment would not form part of this session's Education Bill; nor would the Government support any backbench amendment to that end. Mrs Shepherd had to break off in the middle of a speech to take his call; and was forced to announce in the Commons that she and the Prime Minister were at odds, but that government policy in her own department would diverge from her personal views.

Cynics read the Education Secretary's behaviour as an attempt to make herself popular with the Right, which has been disappointed with her tenure at education. No ambitious Cabinet minister these days can afford to ignore the election after next, at which a new Tory leader will be chosen. But the effect of her actions is to add to the damage that the recent auction of moral promises has done to the Government's reputation.

In the course of a week, ministers have

stumbled each time that they have tried to attune policies to the new national mood. On gun control, they were outflanked by Labour. On legislation on stalking and paedophiles, they were forced into an embarrassing U-turn. On combat knives, they had to concede the principle of a ban. On corporal punishment, the about-turn was effected within hours. But the consequences live on. There is no doubt that an amendment will be put to the Education Bill, seeking to bring back the cane. Mrs Shepherd will have to oppose it.

The language of morality was until recently an unfamiliar tongue for politicians. It shows: After 17 years of emphasising economic determinism, ministers have grown rusty. Tony Blair has had a little more practice. But even he has fallen foul of the law that says that moral pronouncements gather a momentum of their own. Having spoken of his opposition to abortion, he is now under fire for voting against his personal views, and for not changing his party's policy on the issue.

As we argued yesterday, morality has its rightful place in the political discourse. But it has to be handled delicately. Mr Major discovered when he embarked upon his "back to basics" philosophy that ethical crusades can all too easily rebound on the politicians who launch them. They tend to have ramifications well beyond their progenitors' original intentions.

That is why they should not be made up on the hoof, as Mrs Shepherd seemed to be doing yesterday. Moral matters deserve lengthy consideration, rather than exploitation for instant political gain by politicians of either side seeking to trump their opponents. Like playing with fireworks, introducing the language of morality to politics can be dangerous; unless handled with care, it has a habit of blowing up in the politician's face.

TARNISHED GOLD

Victims of the Nazis have had to wait too long for restitution

It seems barely credible that it has taken more than 50 years to compensate countries for the looting they suffered at the hands of the Nazis. Yesterday, however, the way was finally opened for Britain and America to transfer to ten claimant governments 5,100 kilograms of gold held in the Bank of England and 2,100 kilograms held in the Federal Reserve Bank. A settlement was reached in London with Albania, under which Tirana will pay compensation for the loss of two British destroyers sunk off the Albanian coast in 1946, and Britain will pay Tirana the residue of the gold looted by Germany from the Albanian treasury.

This sorry saga should have been brought to an end years ago. The legal wrangling and culpably tardy pace of negotiations are a standing reproach to Britain and the claimant governments. They have added to the frustration not only of the claimant governments but of thousands of Jewish families who have been told they cannot lodge individual claims in London but must wait until the money has returned to their home countries.

Public awareness of this lingering injustice was raised during the summer by the controversy over the separate but related question of the gold purchased from the Nazis by Switzerland. The World Jewish Restitution Organisation has pointed out that both the "bullion" recovered from Germany and held in Britain, as well as the ingots bought by Swiss banks, probably contained large amounts of gold looted from Jewish families, melted down and stamped by the Germans with a false prewar date. The organisation is therefore asking Britain not to hand over the gold directly to the ten governments, but to pay it instead to charities that will compensate Jewish fam-

ilies who suffered death and loss during the Holocaust.

Britain is sympathetic to this request. It is extremely unlikely, for example, that a country such as Yugoslavia, due to receive a share of the gold, will now accede to claims by Jews in Belgrade; the money instead will almost certainly be diverted to pay for the huge debts incurred by sanctions and the war in Bosnia. However, there is little that Britain can do: it is not British gold, and binding agreements have long been reached on its return.

The demand for restitution is a strong one, however, and is at the heart of two other related issues that have outraged world opinion. The first is the issue of the gold that Switzerland still holds. The Bernese Government was so stung by the future, especially in Britain and America, that it appointed a special investigating commission. This will now start work in January, earlier than envisaged, by bypassing the need for a referendum. Swiss indignation may turn to embarrassment, however, if the investigators find more evidence similar to the deal Switzerland now admits it made with Poland over Jewish claims.

The second issue does not concern gold, but art looted from Austrian Jews. Only now has Austria made any real effort to trace the owners or sell masterpieces stored for years in museums and a monastery. The record bids at yesterday's auction indicate a guilty conscience that Austria has done too little to acknowledge complicity in Hitler's war machine or to compensate its victims. For many victims, the money yielded in all three cases is too late. Restitution is impossible for monstrous crimes; but compensation, if long overdue, is a moral obligation that has been left unpaid far too long.

CARS FOR COUPLETS

If you can meet with a Triumph or a Lanchester...

The man who offered Kipling a car in return for a mention in one of his works knew his poet. As our Arts Correspondent reports on page 8, paper-bags discovered in a drawer contain a hoard of Kipling papers. One offers Kipling a new Lanchester if he will immortalise the writer in print. The writer spells the name of the car wrong. But he recognises an old truth: *vita brevis, ars longa*. Any *Viva* now needs an MOT certificate, but Art lasts longer.

He also knew his man. In his short stories, Kipling was the first poet of the internal combustion engine. Before the M23 ran with tailbacks to Brighton, Kipling celebrated the joys of the open road. He started a genre of adventures with motoring which was later imitated by such successors as the wheel and gear-lever as Dornford Yates and Ian Fleming. Kipling refused the car, not because he disapproved of the bribe, but because he had only just got used to his present car.

Verse for perks is as old as poetry itself. Even poets must eat, and in this century they also like to drive a car. Since the beginning of poetry, it has been the privilege of the wealthy man to support the versifying man. Horace was given his Sabine farm as a bung from the new regime, and he made his patrons immortal in verses that few find fulsome. And even from the comfort of his new estate, Horace recognised that his masters had got a bargain. A good poem is a memorial that lasts even longer than a Rolls-

Royce. Brave heroes lived before Agamemnon. But nobody remembers them because they did not have a poet to pay for a mention.

Like all artists, Kipling drew on real people for his fictions. Where else than on the road can an artist find out what makes people or engines tick? Identifying the subtextual influences for such characters as Stalky and M'Turk is a literary industry. And Renaissance artists painted their patrons into their triptychs beside the saints. From Pope to Beethoven, writers have used verse to puff friends and hiss enemies.

So there is nothing unusual or improper in attempting to buy immortality from an artist. That trade-off has always been part of the arts market-place. In an age in which belief in physical immortality has dwindled, the lust for having one's name famous even for 15 minutes has spread from phone-ins to footballers' shirts.

A poem lasts longer than an election poster. But it needs to be by a poet as good on his day as Kipling. Perhaps his correspondent just did not offer a big enough sop. He should have tempted the car-crazy poet with a grander motor, if he came grander than Lanchesters. His attempt may not have been wasted. His letter will now earn somebody enough to buy at least a second-hand car. And for the attention of the Kipling industry, it might have influenced the poet when he was composing what has recently been voted the most popular poem in English. If all cars count with you, but none too much,

Church appeal for action on Zaïre

From the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council

Sir, No one needs to be reminded of the tragedy which befell Rwanda two years ago. Few will forget the scenes which filled our television screens in April and May of 1994.

At that time, the international community, including the Churches, stood accused of failing to take decisive action as those terrible events unfolded.

Today, we stand on the verge of renewed disaster in the region. New violence flares in Zaïre, and more people are dying every day. It threatens to draw in not only the Rwandan refugees living in Zaïre, but also the Rwandan Government and Army. It is unlikely that the Government of Burundi would stand aside, and Tanzania and Uganda would undoubtedly be affected by any international conflict in the region.

The world cannot stand by and watch again. No one wishes to interfere in the internal affairs of independent nations, but the people of that war-weary region of Central Africa can surely bear no more.

We appeal to the governments of the nations concerned to step back from the chaos of war. We urge leaders in other parts of the continent to exert influence upon their colleagues to bring the killings to an end. We call on all member states of the United Nations to take whatever steps are needed to save this desperate situation, and we fully support the call by the UN for an international conference to address the underlying needs of the region.

We give an assurance that our Churches will do all in their power to support efforts for peace and justice.

Yours faithfully,
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,
KATHLEEN RICHARDSON,
As from Lambeth Palace, SE1,
October 29.

Children at risk

From Ms Amanda Grant

Sir, The plight of the baby boy tortured and abused by his father until death came as "a merciful release" (report, October 24) haunts me: surely we can find some way to protect helpless children from such cruelty.

When I left hospital with my newborn son last summer I was visited daily for ten days by my midwife, then weekly for four weeks by my health visitor. The baby was undressed and weighed each time. It was then up to me to take the baby to a clinic for regular weigh-ins, and I found it convenient to go every month or so, so that his progress could be regularly plotted on the weight charts.

Could these checkups not be made compulsory for the first few years of a child's life? A reminder could be sent to the parent of a child that has not attended a clinic recently and, if necessary, the child could be visited at home. A lack of co-operation by the parents could be taken as an indication that all was not well.

Yours faithfully,
AMANDA GRANT,
1 Greenfield Cottage,
Bentley, Farnham, Surrey,
October 24.

Banning handguns

From Mr Martin Pawley

Sir, The ordeal of Lord and Lady McGowan (report, October 28) casts an interesting light on the impending legislation to ban handguns. For centuries a pistol was regarded as a weapon of defence and was unlicensed. Now we are in the process of creating a society in which it will be illegal to own one.

Terrorists, criminals and the police will be armed to the teeth, and only law-abiding citizens in their own homes will be defenceless.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN PAWLEY,
Church Wing, The Old Rectory,
Somerton, Bicester, Oxfordshire,
October 28.

'Savage' Hillaby

From Mr Bernard Kaurkas

Sir, John Hillaby, whose obituary you published today, was first and foremost a naturalist. He once received a letter from Harvard informing him that that university had adopted one of his early works as a textbook. A degree was enclosed, and Hillaby demonstrated his foresight by using it to buy life membership of the London Library and the Savage Club.

Hillaby was a true Savage, walking regularly from Hampstead to the club - and eventually home again. He would, when asked, demonstrate his walking ability by leaning forward at the angle made famous by M. Hulot - "halves the effort" he would explain. He always spoke as he wrote, good English prose.

Yours truly,
BERNARD KAURKAS,
Savage Club, 1 Whitehall Place, SW1,
October 21.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-762 5444

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-762 5000

Breaking the cycle of drug misuse

From Dr G. J. Cresswell

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("The opium of America", October 24) is quite right to draw attention to the irrationality of anti-drugs legislation, but he also stops short of the unthinkable.

Drug-peddling is enormously profitable because the addictive substances (opiates and, to a lesser extent, cocaine and amphetamines and their derivatives) have scarcity value driven by their illegality and because they are, by their very nature, self-marketing, once addiction can be established. These characteristics together provide the drive to addict the young.

The only way to interrupt this cycle is to drop the street price of addictive drugs to virtually nothing. This would at a stroke eliminate the profit potential and simultaneously the drive to addict the vulnerable. Drugs could be provided by the State, free of charge or for the equivalent of a prescription charge.

Provided that the user is willing to accept appropriate counselling, the drugs could be provided in whatever quantities he might require. I have no doubt that the cost of provision, counselling and administration would be covered by the savings consequent on the associated reduction in crime and that after a short bonanza drug use would drop to manageable levels.

Yours faithfully,
G. J. CRESSWELL,
Ann Cottage,
Kilminster, Alresford, Hampshire,
October 25.

From Mr Derek Forrest

Sir, Random drug-testing in prisons is said to cost at least twice as much as a drug-reduction and rehabilitation programme (report, October 25).

We randomly test prisoners in Lancashire but not at weekends. I have

been told by prisoners that cannabis remains in the blood for 14 days, heroin only four, so if a prisoner goes on a heroin trip on Friday evening he would be at risk of discovery only on Monday.

Heroin use would thus tend to increase and cannabis use (which prisoners have told me that, in the absence of complete exclusion of drugs, they favour for its calming effect) to diminish.

The net effect, as I see it, is that prisons will discharge more and more heroin addicts who have only one way of supporting their £60-a-day habit: crime.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK FORREST,
Solicitor Direct,
Leyland House, Lancashire
Enterprises Business Park,
Centurion Way, Leyland, Lancashire.

From Dr Dorothy E. Speed

Sir, I suggest that money spent on costly drug tests would be better used in preventing drugs coming into prisons in the first place. It is irresponsible to use public money on random tests, while continuing to allow such easy access of drugs to prisoners. Better searches of visitors and treating open visits as an earned privilege, rather than a right, would go a long way to cut down the present easy transfer of drugs into prisons.

To cut off the supply of drugs to prisoners would not only make drug rehabilitation schemes more meaningful but would save money. Prisoners whose use of drugs is detected lose remission. Penalties range from two to four weeks at circa £460 a week.

Yours truly,
D. E. SPEED,
20 Winchester Street, SW1,
October 26.

Courts' use of custodial sentences

From Mr C. J. Livesley

Sir, To my mind Libby Purves's account of prisons "clogged with fine defaulters and shoplifters" ("Prisoners of stupidity", October 22) was misleading. Every effort is made by the criminal courts to employ appropriate non-custodial sentences: the fine rather than prison is by far the most commonly used punishment and is very successful.

However, experience clearly shows that prison is the only practical and effective method of enforcement against the minority who will not pay. As a sentence, prison is reserved for the serious and/or repeat offender. It is wholly exceptional for magistrates to send "shoplifters" to prison.

We must not allow the shortcomings of the prison regime to justify an enforced reduction in the necessary use of prison by the courts. Victims need respite and examples must be made. In the final analysis, only prison protects us from those who refuse to see and respond to reason.

It is quite wrong to urge, as your sub-heading did, that "custodial sentences must become a last resort". They have been for a long, long time.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LIVESLEY
(Justices' Clerk),
South Tyneside Magistrates' Court,
Campbell Park Road,
Hebburn, Tyne and Wear,
October 22.

From Mr Charles Scott

Sir, As a member of the South Tyneside duty solicitor scheme I regularly attend to and advise people who are arrested by a warrants officer and brought before the court for non-payment of fines. It has become increasingly obvious that a substantial number of single mothers are being arrested in connection with non-payment of television licence fines.

A typical case, of which I have had several over the last week, will involve a mother of three or four children who is arrested and brought before the court having been detained in the police cells. The amounts of arrears can very often be as little as £10.

Whilst the magistrates show great sympathy and compassion to these cases they are nevertheless disturbing to deal with.

Might I suggest that the Government deals with this problem by allowing women who are in receipt of income support to have free television licences and to rid the criminal courts of the onerous task of dealing with this humiliating and unnecessary fiasco.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SCOTT,
Ward Hadaway (solicitors),
Town Hall Chambers,
7 Beach Road,
South Shields, Tyne and Wear,
October 22.

From Mr Richard A. Edwards

Sir, At the end of every Parliament each administration engages in an undignified scramble to place its Bills on the statute book. As events of recent days illustrate the Major administration is no exception.

Inevitably, important Bills are lost when Parliament expires, while others are not brought forward simply because there is no parliamentary time. Poor and inadequate legislation is the consequence.

In New Zealand, by contrast, the House of Representatives may resolve that any Bill or business before it be carried over into the next session, whether of the same Parliament or not (Constitution Act 1986, s20). Consequently Bills in New Zealand do not lapse on the dissolution or expiration of Parliament.

Has the time not come for the enactment of a similar provision here?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD A. EDWARDS,
60 Queen's Road, Devizes, Wiltshire,
October 23.

Masonic loyalty

From Mr R. E. Floyd

Sir, It is suggested in your report (October 25) that membership of Freemasonry, being a body that demands loyalty of its members, must create a conflict of interest for police officers.

It would be a poor organisation that did not demand some form of loyalty from its membership. However, in the case of Freemasonry the priorities are unambiguous. A Freemason's vows are not to take priority over his civil, moral or religious duties. Accordingly a police officer, like anybody holding public office, need never be compromised by Masonic loyalty.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FLOYD,
Floyd Harris
(Chartered accountants),
Mitre House, 44/46 Fleet Street, EC4.

Clinical academic doctors spurned

From Professor Sir Keith Peters, FRCS, and Professor Frank Harris

Sir, We are deeply concerned by the decision, announced on October 11, of the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) to abandon the pay link between NHS hospital doctors and hospital doctors employed by the universities with medical schools.

This occurs at a time when the future for clinical academic medicine (of whose achievements in the development of patient care, the creation of new specialities and the conduct of clinical research the UK can be justifiably proud) is already threatened.

In 1995 the House of Lords Select Committee on Medical Research recommended to government that an inquiry be set up to study the deteriorating circumstances of academic medicine. In the event the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals established an independent inquiry under the chairmanship of Sir Rex Richards after government's failure to acknowledge that there was indeed a significant problem in recruiting and retaining doctors in academic medicine.

The refusal of the UCEA to meet the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body pay award to clinical academics breaches the principle of parity between the two groups of hospital doctors who work side by side through all grades in the NHS. In major teaching hospitals, the clinical academics may deliver more than 50 per cent of the key acute medical and surgical services to patients.

This now annual battle with the Department for Education and Employment to maintain the principle of pay parity between the NHS and the university doctors occurs in spite of DFE awareness of the promise made by Sir Keith Joseph in 1986 and is deeply damaging.

The effect of the UCEA decision will be greatest on young academics who are the seed corn for the future of medicine: they will be under pressure to change to service posts that will at best provide only limited opportunities to conduct research. The teaching of medical students and the postgraduate education of doctors must also suffer.

In short, it will not be possible to retain or recruit the best young people to academic medicine. For the sake of saving a relatively small sum (the additional cash required to maintain parity is £4.8 million) the DFE seems prepared to jeopardise the future of an enterprise whose excellence is vital to the NHS.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH PETERS
(Chairman),
FRANK HARRIS
(Executive Secretary),
Council of Deans of UK Medical Schools and Faculties,
PO Box 138, Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building,
University Road, Leicester,
October 29.

Classic mix-up

From Mr Eric F. Waine

Sir, The item headed "Classic fudge" (Diary, October 23) refers to John Williams, composer of film soundtracks. As Mr Williams also composes other music (he has two symphonies and concertos for violin and for flute to his credit, among other works) I can quite see that he may well be caught in the "trap". However, as far as I am aware, he is not renowned as a guitarist.

It would appear that John Williams the composer has been inadvertently amalgamated with John Williams the eminent Australian guitarist. At a time when mergers are prevalent in so many areas of activity the world of music is indeed fortunate to have two leading musicians of the same name using their diverse respective talents for our benefit and delectation.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC WAINE,
The Drey, 71 Lakewood Road,
Chandler's Ford, Hampshire,
October 24.

A broad canvas

From Mr E. W. Lighton

Sir, The comic effects of cut-offs between volumes of encyclopaedias (letters, October 23, 25) is repeated in the page headings of reference works. For example, the *Yellow Pages* of Edmonton (Alberta) telephone district had an entry of "Marriage Counsellors - Martial Arts".

Yours faithfully,
E. W. LIGHTON,
11 Ryebank Avenue, Crewe, Cheshire,
October 25.

Walls of sound

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, In Amanda Loose's engaging piece "How to give your house saleability" (October 23) one learns that in this five-storey mid-Victorian house there is a "modern sense of balanced calm".

One wonders quite how this will be sustained now that the owners "have added speakers to every room".

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT VINCENT,
Dilly House,
Wildern, Andover, Hampshire.

It's a free country, but not if you want to tell the truth

Lot of silliness without a circus

All praise to the Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges. It has decided to let cameras into its cash-for-questions inquiry. Unique among parliamentary committees, it enjoys the option of excluding cameras from public hearings. Wisely it will not exercise it. That's one small step on the road to open government.

Why would such a committee consider shutting its doors to television? To avoid "a media circus", of course. That snappy phrase is often trotted out to justify excluding cameras from hearings like the Scott inquiry where a wider public would like to look in. A sneering reference to the O.J. Simpson trial usually follows, as if that settles the question.

What a laugh. Britain is not California. It does not have palm trees, a violent and armed police force, football players who become actors, or a legal system that tolerates pre-trial publicity, allowing lawyers to give daily press conferences. Nor, unlike the United States, does it have a Freedom of Information Act. Suggestions that we should have such an Act are dismissed with warnings of the danger of emulating the legalistic Americans.

Threats of a media circus were widely used in the 1980s to fend off moves to televise Parliament. It would ruin the quality of debate, members would be encouraged to play to the camera. The media circus did not take place. Since 1986 the full proceedings of both Houses have been televised.

You can watch every golden minute on The Parliamentary Channel, a cable-exclusive channel, which offers the Commons live, delayed broadcasts of the Lords' proceedings the following morning and selections from the parliamentary committees at the weekend. Other broadcasting organisations take bits as suits their needs, notably from Prime Minister's Questions.

The only behaviour modification that television has wrought on MPs has been to get women members into day-glo jackets. If these years have also witnessed a loss of respect for Parliament, not even MPs would blame television as the cause. The cameras show empty chambers because everybody knows that most speeches don't matter.

Yet parliamentary television is duller than it needs to be. The fault lies with the rules enforced to stave off the media circus. No close-ups (the basic technique of film and screen) are allowed. "Reaction" shots are also forbidden. How ironic that the debating chamber which boasts that it is the best in the world and prides itself on the well-honed gibe, will not allow us to see the expression

on the victim's face. All we see is the triumphant attacker. Only wide-angle shots of the chamber are allowed. Programme editors are not even permitted to put a circle over the part of the screen which shows, say, a scuffle or a whip forcing a reluctant member through the lobby. Reporters and editors are thereby prevented from doing their job: directing the public to what is relevant.

Equally ludicrous is the rule forbidding the use of any of the footage for satirical purposes. Members seem to need assurance that no shots will turn up on the cover of *Private Eye* or on *A Week in Politics*. But surely they are at greater risk of looking foolish on the campaign trail, with everything from eggs to babies being thrust at them unawares, than in the Palace of Westminster.



BRENDA MADDOX

Politicians have no business having such thin skins. The time has come for them to repay the responsible coverage television has given Parliament over the past decade by loosening the rules — especially the silliest of them all.

That is the absolute requirement that, if any really untoward event should occur in the chamber — one member knocking another out cold, for example — the cameras must go straight to the face of the Speaker and stay there. Eyes away from the news? That's not public service. It's censorship.

In Liverpool at the weekend to chair a session at the 50th anniversary conference of the Guild of Editors, I found it full of passionate defenders of the press, not only from the nationals but smaller ones with evocative names like the *Bury Free Press* and the *Shropshire Star*.

It was a poor audience before which to call for a new privacy law to restrain the excesses of newspapers, but *The Independent's* columnist Polly Toynbee and libel lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck made such an appeal. They would have had a less hostile reception had they made the case for abortion before a group of Roman Catholic bishops.

If the rest of Europe can have a privacy law, asked Ms Toynbee, why can't we? David Newell, a lawyer and the deputy director of the Newspaper Society, explained: "A privacy law would be introduced into a legal system which lacks protection of freedom of expression. No European country lacks such protection." Amen. A country which neither has a Freedom of Information Act nor a guaranteed right of free speech should be lifting, not piling on, restrictions.

Winner will exercise his mind

AT last, something to distract Michael Winner from the business of persecuting restaurateurs. The film director and Fleet Street irritant is to join the red braces brigade. He has been signed up by Real Creatives Worldwide to direct television commercials.

"He'd be good at anything action-packed... you know, like taking Milk Tray into the 21st century or car commercials," Malcolm Ross, of Real Creatives, says. Mr Winner's own recollections of his previous advertising work are rather more mundane: "I did one in the Fifties for Elizabethan tape recorders. But it's quite correct that I have been signed up to work for this company. Having done fast-paced pictures before, it was thought there might be a good cross-over there. I'm happy to do it. It keeps your hand in and exercises the mind."

THE more upmarket estate agents in Edinburgh apparently perked up when they heard that the prosperous Andrew Neil had accepted the job of Editor-in-Chief of *European Press Holdings*, which owns *The Scotsman*, *The European* and two other Scottish newspapers.

Would they be able to interest the jet-setting Mr Neil in a charming pied-à-terre in the grand old city?

Unfortunately the Paisley superstar has no plans to lay down property roots in Edinburgh. "I plan to be in Edinburgh two to three days a week, probably flying up on a Sunday night and returning to London on Wednesday," he says. "I shall be staying at the Balmoral hotel."

Thin ice

PAUL BOATENG, MP and host of Channel 4's astute public debate programme, *Nothing But the Truth*, is stepping into his audience to consider the matter of the Prince's former housekeeper, Wendy Berry.

Mrs Berry, you will remember, blotted her copybook when she told all about the breakdown of his marriage in a carefully recorded book, *Housekeeper's Diary*. A royal legal team gained an injunction which prevented the contents of the book being sold, published or broadcast in the UK. They were unable, however, to stop 90,000 copies being flogged in America.



Boateng: telling the truth

The programme — which is being recorded on Saturday and is likely to be screened on Sunday — will debate whether it was right that a book of such huge public interest should have been banned in Britain. Mr Boateng, however, should be aware that the last organisation to publicise the contents of that book was the late *Today* newspaper which felt the full force of a

Palace writ within an hour of hitting the streets.

THOSE hardworking chaps at World in Action have had enough of seeing their arch-rivals at *Panorama* stealing the limelight. Stung by the plaudits the BBC *Panorama* team received for their world exclusive interview with Diana, Princess of Wales, and the moving story of Child B's fight against leukaemia, they have decided to hit back.

Stand by for an innovative new advertising campaign dreamt up by the publicity men at Granada, in Manchester, to accompany a series of hard-hitting World in Action documentaries. "We want to let people know we are still here and it's not just *Panorama* making good programmes," a source says.



Tall tale: Tiffany Raymond

Curdling tales

EASTENDERS scriptwriters are determined not to be outdone by the acres of publicity which followed *Brookside's* recent incest storyline.

The *EastEnders* crew are planning an equally racy plot which could see the BBC out-tattoo Channel 4 and keep the Broadcasting Standards Council busy for weeks. It goes like this: Tiffany Raymond, who is pregnant

with Grant Mitchell's baby, confides to Lorraine Wicks that she's not sure Grant is the father after all. Lorraine tells all. Grant throws Tiffany out and she is forced to seek shelter with her gay brother Simon. Still following? Well, the trouble is that Simon's live-in lover is Tony Hills who is not only Tiffany's live-in lover but also the real father of the baby. Hence an instant ménage à trois.

There is apparently no truth in the rumour that *Coronation Street* is planning to introduce Mavis and Derek Wilton to wife-swapping.

Why consumers are switching off

CONSUMERS are going out of their way to avoid advertisements, according to a new study by Lowe Howard Spink. Advertising isn't working.

As much as £465 million spent on television advertising alone in 1995 was wasted because of a phenomenon which has been labelled "advertising avoidance" by John Lowery, head of planning at the agency.

Close analysis of the official BARB TV viewing data, as well as extra questions added to the TGI consumer survey, have revealed that 44 per cent of the nation are zapping TV commercials, while 54 per cent of the population could be "avoiding" ads on posters and 56 per cent could be snubbing magazine advertising, he says.

The reason for the phenomenon, according to Mr Lowery, is the decline over the past five years of likeable advertising — likeable being an important factor in the effectiveness of an ad — and the detrimental effect that bad

ADVERTISING

advertising has on other, possibly good, work.

THE 1996 Ariel Awards, the annual event in celebration of excellence in radio advertising, took place last night at BAFTA in London.

While lacking the razzamatazz of other advertising award ceremonies, the occasion was nevertheless well attended by 200 agency creatives, marking how increasingly important creativity is to radio commercials.

Awards were heaped upon the Harry Enfield ads for *Dine Bar*, which cleverly spoofed the worst things about radio commercials — from ghastly jingles to endless "small print" disclaimers and inanely repeated phone numbers.

The award for the best campaign went deservedly to Saatchi and

Saatchi for its strong "Army soldier: be the best" COI/MoD work.

STUART PEARCE, the England and Nottingham Forest defender, seems to be the advertising flavour of the month.

Having made his commercial debut in an ad for Raleigh bikes, he is now to star in the latest Ford Escort commercial. It plays on his infamous spot-kick miss in the 1990 World Cup semi-final against West Germany. Responding to the "what do you do in your?" Escort challenge, the ad ends with the line "Stuart Pearce misses a penalty in his" as it shows him getting a parking ticket from a traffic warden.

Pizza Hut is also exploiting his goal-scoring history in a commercial starting on November 1. It also stars two other semi-final penalty missers, Gareth Southgate and Chris Waddle.

BELINDA ARCHER



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A tribute to the old campaigner

The Heinz '57-varieties' advertising slogan is 100 years old today and going strong. Alex Benady examines the secret of its appeal

ADVERTISING is a business notorious for its short-term perspective and obsessive pursuit of novelty. Ask an ad man for his definition of a "long time" and he will probably reply "60 seconds" on the grounds that it is twice the length of the average television commercial.

Few advertising ideas last longer than a couple of years. Exceptional campaigns may endure for a decade. Only a handful of the most powerful and relevant slogans have ever survived more than a few decades.

But today the granddaddy of all advertising slogans, Heinz's "57 varieties", celebrates its 100th anniversary. As the corporate call sign of the 87 billion-year-old Heinz company, it appears on advertising and packaging in 200 different countries and ranks alongside Coca-Cola as one of the best-known slogans in the world.

It dates from October 30, 1896, when Henry John Heinz, owner of a fast-expanding pickled foods business, was on a train in New York and noticed an advertisement proclaiming "21 styles of shoes".

Although Heinz was already making more than 60 different lines, his mind kept turning to the number 57 and the phrase "57 varieties". He recorded in his diary: "I jumped off the train and began the work of laying out my advertising plans. Within a week it was appearing on billboards, signs and anywhere else I could find a place to stick it."

His short-order working methods contrast with the modern drawn-out creative

agony. This seemingly anodyne phrase rapidly became the best-known commercial message in the world. In the UK it has not appeared in advertisements since the 1960s when a television campaign was accompanied by the jingle "Heinz 57, it's Heinz 57, Heinz has everything you need. Ready when you are, yes indeed, it's Heinz 57."

It was subsequently eclipsed

by the slogan "Choice and abundance", said Robert Bailey, Heinz UK marketing director. Examples of its use range from the bingo call "Heinz 57" to the title of Bruce Springsteen's 1994 song, "57 Channels and Nothing On".

The question is: why do some properties, especially when they are as apparently insignificant as "57 varieties", have such resonance and staying power?

Merry Clayton is a planning director of J Walter Thompson, the agency in London with more long-running advertising campaigns than any other. "The secret of longevity is to have an idea with a strong theme that can be modified to accommodate new trends," she said.

She illustrates her argument with the example of the 50-year-old Esso tiger: "It started life as a symbol of power, then in the Eighties became a symbol of green environmentalism, and now it has become a vigilante follower of prices."

Andy Bryant, account director of Heinz advertising agency Bates Dorian, says the durability of "57 varieties" lies in its ability to be continually

reinterpreted and updated to suit the times. "In 1896, 57 was a large number and '57 varieties' was an impressive display of manufacturing versatility. During the Great Depression it became a symbol of plenty. During the war it became a symbol of manufacturing power in defiance of German air raids," he said.

And it fits in perfectly with Heinz's communication strategy. Two years ago the com-



The "57" slogan is still a catchy number worldwide. In the Thirties poster above it had become synonymous in the UK with fitness and plenty

pany caused controversy with the advertising community by ceasing to advertise individual products and instead put its budget into a single campaign for the Heinz name. "Advertising all the Heinz varieties had become prohibitively expensive. But we could only adopt this 'umbrella branding' approach because, unlike many other manufacturers' names, Heinz means something to the consumer. And one of its strongest conno-

tations is '57 varieties'," Bryant said. A 100-year-old advertising slogan may sound like a contradiction in terms but according to Gary Duckworth, chairman of Duckworth Finn Grubb Waters, such properties are the ultimate goal of advertising and marketing.

"In an ideal world nearly all campaigns would be long-running because you get a cumulative investment which far exceeds the value of each year's spend," he said. "Long-running ideas build potency and layers of meaning which are hard to compete with."

In other words, they give a brand financial and emotional protection which rivals find hard to match. Heinz proves this. Despite almost suicidal competition from retailers and other manufacturers in recent years, with tins of baked beans sold for a few pence in some

cases, sales of Heinz beans have increased. "We all know the really long-running advertising campaigns, 99 per cent of the population can complete the 75-year-old line. 'Have a break, have a...'. They are deeply embedded in our minds. But if they are so powerful and so valuable, it is puzzling that there are not more of them. After all, said Clayton, "It becomes apparent within a couple of months after a campaign breaks whether it has lasting qualities or not."

As the celebrities pointed, the cameras rolled and the curtain went up for this year's National Television Awards, few of the 3,000 guests at the Royal Albert Hall would have noticed Kim Turberville.

She spent most of the gala evening backstage, her party dress hitched above her knees, running from room to room ensuring all was going to a schedule which was entirely hers.

It was while she was watching the BAFTA awards several years ago that it struck her that the programmes most rewarded were rarely the ones most enjoyed by the masses.

Now the woman, who nine years ago was typing letters as a secretary for Central TV, is the sole owner of the rights to the awards night which this month attracted more than 12 million viewers, managed to persuade the Duchess of York to pop in as the surprise guest and has already got the BBC bidding to broadcast it in 1998.

The indisputable success of the National Television Awards must be perplexing for other, more traditional ceremonies, such as BAFTA, which while honouring "worthy" programmes are often accused by the kindest of critics of making dull television.

Turberville's theory is sim-

Kim Turberville wanted an awards show for the most popular programmes on television. Interview by Carol Midgley

ple. Bring together all the celebrities from all the most popular programmes for an evening of glitz and you have a guaranteed massive audience.

Critics could argue that does not necessarily create interesting or good quality television but Turberville ensured that what the show may have lacked in weight, it made up for in glamour. "I hadn't seen anything which excited viewers in terms of glamour for a long time," said Turberville. "We made sure all the celebrities turned up in limousines and that a lot of genuine fans were there. It created a magical atmosphere."

Uniquely, the winners for Turberville's awards are decided by the viewing public. This year 250,000 people cast a vote, one hundred times more than the number of people required for an official opinion poll. "No TV award

show ever reflected popular taste — until now," boomed *The Sun*, which, as a major sponsor, did have a vested interest. During the awards' two-year lifespan (1995 and 1996) the programmes have achieved viewing figures of more than 12 million for each showing.

This year the show's audience share was 48 per cent and, to Turberville's delight, the audience grew every 15 minutes. Next year, although they will be again shown on the ITV network, she will ask the BBC to trail the awards on a public information basis.

"It had occurred to me for a while that the programmes which people watched most, programmes like *Animal Hospital* and *The Bill*, were never rewarded," she said. "I love watching television — I am a great fan of *Heartbeat* for instance, and I wanted to



Kim Turberville with a National Television Award

focus on the programmes I watched the most." Turberville, who runs her own television company, Indigo, joined up with Gramplan and with its director of programmes George Mitchell,

offered the idea to ITV network and was granted the airtime. The first show was a resounding success not least because of the troubled Michael Barrymore who, having

picked up three awards, went on to steal the show. This year it was the Duchess of York, who, on presenting the award for best drama to *The Bill* remarked that she should be receiving it not giving it. Again, maximum tabloid coverage was guaranteed.

The Duchess was very nervous and said: "Do you think they are going to boo me?" In fact, there was an enormous cheer.

Having grown up in Chepstow, Turberville attended Nottingham University before deciding to sneak in to television through the back door as a secretary, but with her eye on the main chance. "I wanted to get into production and I thought it was the fastest way in. I never thought for a moment it would pigeon-hole me although I can see now how that might happen," she said.

"It was great. People think you are invisible when you are a secretary and said anything they liked in front of me. I got to know all the secrets. I don't think anybody realised I was so ambitious."

She went on to become an assistant producer and a producer working on the daytime

intimate documentary about the pop singer Phil Collins, will be screened on television.

But it is the National Television Awards which remains her most important achievement, a result, she believes of simply identifying popular tastes and packaging the programme in a popular, feelgood way.

"Sometimes the industry can get too wrapped up in itself," she said. "While it is talking about the latest movements at the ITC, it can lose sight of the whole point of television — the viewer at home. I am really lucky because I love these programmes myself. It was just a matter of remembering who the viewer is and what they want and delivering it."

"I make sure I have a very good private life," she says. "I always like to work long days then have long weekends."

The London-based company, which employs just six staff, specialises in one-off documentaries. This Christmas her latest offering, an

Saturday editions top weekend takings

When I spoke to Andrew Neil at his packed book launch party in Daphne's restaurant on Monday night, he was as reticent as the parrot on his shoulder (yes, he had a parrot on his shoulder) about his new job.

But his decision to become Editor-in-Chief of *The Scotsman*, Scotland on Sunday and *The European* can be seen as an astute move by the owners, David and Freddie Barclay.

And I suspect it is good news for the British media, too. For the Barclays are not grey financiers after a peerage and a quick profit. They are genuine newspaper enthusiasts who devour every newspaper every day, who enjoy politics and the company of journalists.

With Neil joining the shrewd Bert Hardy, the former managing director of Associated Newspapers, at the helm of the Barclays media empire stand by for fireworks and acquisitions. The brothers have no new targets in sight, I am told, but with Neil on board they may be keener to expand.

Hardy said: "It's taken me

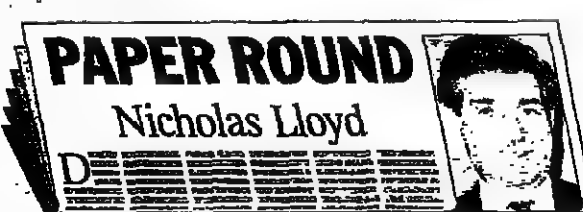
six months to get Andrew. He's high profile and he's Scottish — we wouldn't dare bring in anyone up here in Edinburgh who wasn't! He will bring us the hands-on editorial expertise necessary to develop our titles."

"We have to decide what direction *The European* should take — and we want to change our Sunday broadsheet review section to a magazine and also improve *The Scotsman's* Saturday magazine."

Returning to executive centre stage, the former king of the big Sunday newspaper package will note that Saturday has taken over as the biggest selling day.

Several Saturday issues now outsell their Sunday stablemates. The *Daily Mail* on Saturday sells 2.7 million to *The Mail on Sunday's* 2.1 million; the *Daily Mirror* sells 2.8 million to the *Sunday Mirror's* 2.45 million; *The Sun* has caught up with the *News of the World* at 4.5 million and the *daily Express*, with 1.4 million, is 200,000 ahead of its sagging Sunday sister.

Part of this shift may be the result of good old British



thrill. Since 1988, pagination of the dailies has doubled and magazines and supplements have been added to burgeoning Saturday editions. Why then, should a busy reader rush out and buy several Sunday newspapers, too?

There is no doubt that the removal of restrictions on Sunday trading and licensing hours has changed consumer behaviour radically.

I can remember in the Fifties and Sixties when all there was to do on a Sunday was read the newspapers, a time when a three-newspaper household was normal and the *News of the World* was hidden from the children (a move that ensured it became a sex education manual for every teenager).

Now we can work, rest and play on the Sabbath. Indeed, as one editor I spoke to suggested, Saturday may

have become the day we recover from work, a day for lazing and loafing, a day to read fat newspapers. And the deregulation of television listings has a major impact on sales, permitting Saturday papers to give readers week-long guides.

Stuart Higgins, Editor of *The Sun*, claims that his new 48-page television magazine, launched earlier this month, has increased sales by 150,000 copies and *The Sun* is now frequently outselling the *News of the World*.

At the *Daily Mirror*, Editor Piers Morgan emphasises the tremendous value for money Saturday newspapers offer. "We give a 28-page TV guide, 16 pages of sport and the main 36-page newspaper for 30p. The Sunday newspapers are more expensive but don't

offer many extra ingredients." (The Times provides more than 200 pages on Saturdays for 50p.)

Nowhere is the battle fiercer than between the middle-market readers, the *Daily Mail* and the *daily Express*. The *Mail* outsells the *Express* on Saturdays by a whopping 1.3 million copies. By being the first tabloid to have a high-quality colour magazine and a new £50,000 scratch-card launched each Saturday, the *Mail* has surged ahead.

Now executives at the *Daily Mail* have opened a bloody new front in the newsagents' shops. Three thousand retailers have received a gift box from the *Mail* labelled "Express Relief". Inside the promotional blurb, circulation director Mike Newman spotlights the cost-saving measures the *Express* has undertaken recently. He claims that the *Sunday Express* has ceased to exist as the editorial staffs of the daily and Sunday have been combined to produce a seven-day newspaper. And he asks the retailer to send out eight days' free copies of the *Mail* to every home-delivered *Express* reader and in return prom-

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NEWS

Major facing revolt over rebuke

John Major was facing a revolt by Conservative rightwingers last night after publicly rebuking Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, for her suggestion that schools could bring back the cane.

Several leading backbenchers said that they would back an education Bill amendment to restore corporal punishment in state schools, even though Mrs Shephard told the Commons that the Government could not support it. Pages 1, 10

Holocaust heritage sold

Records crashed as private collectors, museums and Holocaust survivors bid fiercely for art works that symbolise Austria's neglected Jewish past. The money raised in the auction in Vienna will go mainly to Jewish charities; some will help non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Page 1

Abortion debate

The head of Scotland's Roman Catholics will seek a meeting with Tony Blair to try to clarify his position on abortion. Page 2

Storms aftermath

Britain was struggling to get back on its feet after hurricane winds that killed five people and left a £150 million trail of destruction. Page 3

Police redirected

The Chief Inspector of Constabulary has told police to work harder to solve domestic burglaries after figures showed that less than a quarter of break-ins are cleared up. Page 4

Payments on way out

Plans to outlaw cheque book journalism and the "widespread mischief" of payments to witnesses were unveiled by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor. Page 5

Regal splendour

You would not mistake the King of Thailand's royal flotilla for the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, but you might reasonably expect Cleopatra to glide by at any moment. Page 7

Bypass delay

A decision on the Salisbury bypass has been delayed by the Government in an attempt to avoid a damaging dispute with environmentalists before the general election. Page 8

Hot favourite wins Booker Prize

Graham Swift, a novelist who has expressed regret about the "racehorse element" of competitions, won the 1996 Booker Prize. While his novel *Last Orders*, a story of a bizarre day's outing, was the hot favourite, there had been rows between the judges. Last week *Last Orders* had sold only three copies in more than 600 monitored bookshops. Page 1

Painful truth

Pain brings out the differences between the sexes but women are not really more stoic than men. Page 9

China's warning

China said foreign countries should not interfere in the trial of Wang Dan, the student leader during the Tiananmen Square demonstrations. Page 10

Refugees' despair

Weeping from three days without food or water, two Hutu girls aged about nine found enough reserves of energy to fight over a cob of corn. Page 11

Democrats concede

The Democratic Party capitulated in the face of a Republican lawsuit and agreed to publish a list of contributors. Page 12

Taleban troops ready

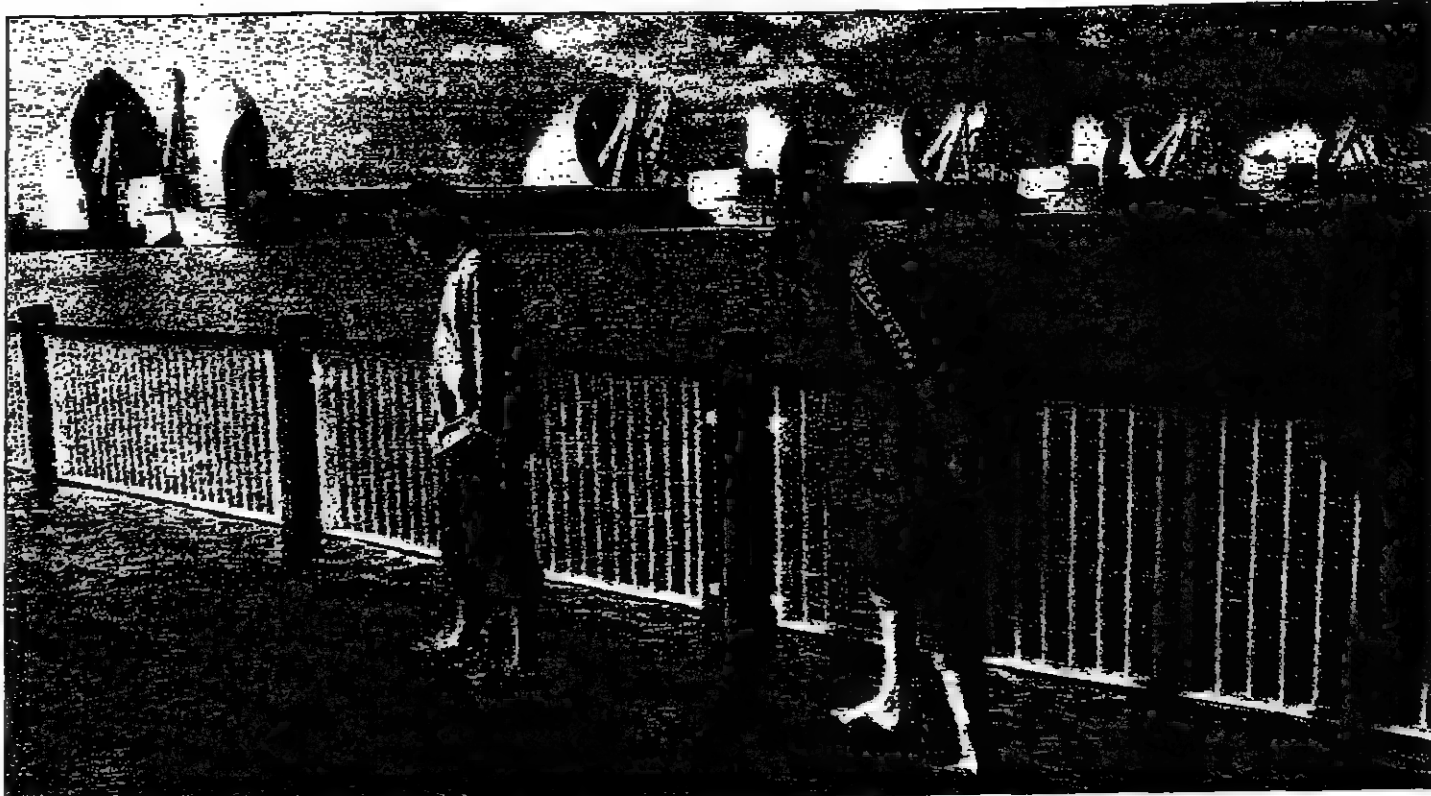
The Taleban rulers of Kabul claimed that they were ready for a final offensive into northern Afghanistan. Page 13

West Bank riot

Israeli troops used live ammunition to break up Palestinian rioting after the funeral of an Arab boy allegedly beaten to death by a Jewish settler. Page 14

Monetary union doubt

Germany will fail to make the grade for European monetary union according to six leading economic institutes. Page 15



Students Paul Moore, left, and Garry Booth paddling in flood water on the river walkway near the raised Thames Barrier yesterday

BUSINESS

Water: Water companies faced a fierce attack from the industry regulator and were warned to curb prices after a series of large shareholder pay-outs and low spending on pipelines. Page 25

Lombard: Dieter Bock announced he would step down as chief executive of Lombard. Page 25

Frank: Senior City figures and politicians are becoming increasingly concerned about plans to move experienced fraud squad officers away from their specialist area. Page 26

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell by 31.8 points to close at 3993.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 89.6 to 89.1 after a fall from \$1.6123 to \$1.6108 and from DM24.805 to DM24.4315. Page 28

Football: A win by Manchester United over Fenerbahce will virtually guarantee them a place in the European Cup quarter-finals for the first time in 28 years. Page 48

Rugby league: Leeds are to remain at Headingley after a takeover by a business consortium, which also hopes to persuade Yorkshire County Cricket Club to stay. Page 48

Rugby union: Wasps are seeking two points after the postponement of their Courage Clubs Championship game against West Hartlepool, who cannot field a front row. Page 45

Tennis: Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion, was beaten 3-6, 6-1, 7-5 by Alberto Berasategui in the second round of the Paris Open. Page 45

Small screen: As BBC Television celebrates its sixtieth birthday, we look at the pioneers who raced to transmit their moving pictures before the Second World War pulled the plug. Page 33

Greek gifts: Thessaloniki is next year's Cultural Capital of Europe, but instead of seizing the chance for a cultural push the city is riven by political rows. Page 35

Beetle music: *Insect Life*, a delightfully costumed and fearlessly conducted opera version of Capet's satire, has become the hottest ticket in Helsinki. Page 34

Entertaining: John Osborne's classic *Fifties* play acquires plenty of resonances for the Nineties, with Michael Pennington riveting in the title role. Page 35

Nigella Lawson: says it is not the working mother but the self-deluding mother who may damage her children. Page 17

Whatever next? Jacqui Lait has joined the last parliamentary male bastion. Page 17

Holding court: Companies back fashion but fashion is the backer tomorrow when Hugo Boss supports a gala to aid The Royal Court Theatre. Page 16

Enduring and endearing: Only a few ads survive more than a couple of years. Amazingly, Heinz 57 Varieties is 100. Page 22, 23

Paper Round: Andrew Neil's new job is good news for newspapers, says Nicholas Lloyd. Page 22, 23

Starting from scratch: What do you do when your dream home burns to the ground? Page 43

With one foot in the surgery: Yelstin continues to battle against Lebed, his greatest rival... Now he has removed General Koryukov, Lebed's greatest ally, from the army. In doing so, "Tsar" Boris has sacked a "Rasputin"... all the better to lay deadly mines in Lebed's likely path back to power. — *El Mundo*, Madrid

Preview: Children's reactions to parents breaking up are explored in *Modern Times* (BBC2, 9pm) Review: Matthew Bond is none the wiser after watching Maxwell — *The Downfall*. Page 41

Playing with fireworks

Like playing with fireworks, introducing the language of morality to politics can be dangerous; unless handled with care, it has a habit of blowing up in the politician's face. Page 19

Tarnished gold

It seems barely credible that it has taken more than 50 years to compensate countries for the looting they suffered at the hands of the Nazis. Page 19

Cars for couplets

Since the beginning of poetry, it has been the privilege of the wealthy man to support the versifying man. Page 19

PETER RIDDELL

Senior British politicians have been to America recently to pick up tips. My impression from watching congressional races and the presidential contest is that there is as much for British politicians to avoid as to copy. Page 12

SIMON JENKINS

The Tories should shut up about schools. Labour leads the Tories on health by six to one. The Tories should shut up about health. Unemployment and welfare give Labour a five-to-one lead; even on law and order the parties are neck and neck. All these ministers should be gagged. Page 18

MELANIE PHILLIPS

Educational orthodoxy holds that the teacher is no longer the key to unlocking the mysteries of the world. Page 18

SIMON BARNES

The fearful lineaments of death seem still more terrible when set against sports' merriment and frivolity. Page 16

Major-General David Miller: Former Commander of the Ulster Defence Regiment; Sir Patrick Browne, former Lord Justice of Appeal. Page 31

Zaire crisis: legislation on drugs; sentencing policy. Page 19

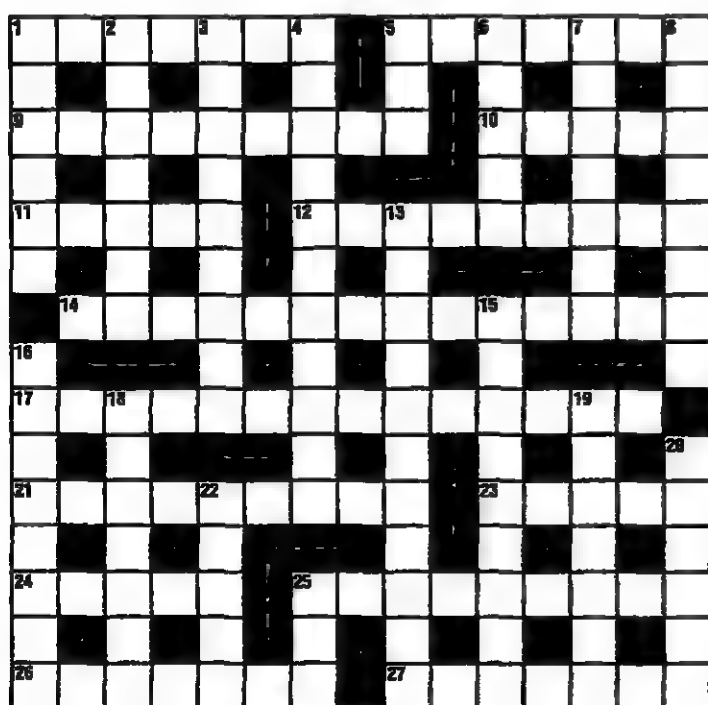
IN THE TIMES

FILM
Robert De Niro plays the stalking anti-hero of Tony Scott's baseball film *The Fan*

BOOKS
Antonia Fraser on the secret life of Aphra Behn and Peter Ackroyd on George Eliot



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,312



ACROSS

- 1 Lover of sport upset after a game's end (7).
- 5 Exponents of popular games (7).
- 9 Very good casting in talkies (9).
- 10 I go round city (5).
- 11 Record number (5).
- 12 Islanders have nothing for leader of countrymen (9).
- 14 Enemy takes both manoeuvres simultaneously (2,3,4,5).
- 17 Change ruining one team sport (14).
- 21 Will try getting last word before end of argument (9).
- 23 Fish's head coming out of seaweed (5).
- 24 Long time getting to the point (5).
- 25 A lot of men take retaliation on club (9).
- 26 Crime — only half of it has a motive (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,311

EPONYM NIGHTCAP
R I O A O A
J E T T I S O N W I N N E R
S R T C R C O
A U T O G I R O S P R E A D
M G E M I R I
O I N T O N S I B S
U N I S O S T A S Y U
F L O R I D E S C A P A D E
I R T A S
G A M B U T T H I R T E E N
H E A T I S H O
T I R E L E S S P L A Y I N G

DOWN

- 1 Weigh Jerry? (6).
- 2 Car included in some severance pay (7).
- 3 Bound to pray when going round church (9).
- 4 You'll find Harris in one, shivering, whatever the weather (4,2,5).
- 5 Swimmer examined orally (3).
- 6 Took out old hat (5).
- 7 To which an estate may be entrusted for safe-keeping (7).
- 8 Provide information on offence ultimately meriting prison (4,4).
- 13 He describes how French upset ecclesiastical tribunal (11).
- 15 Xanthippe — name given to a monster without one? (9).
- 16 Stone frigate (8).
- 18 Superior sage put in a stew (7).
- 19 Careless, dropping book's wrapper (7).
- 20 Junket needs some money raised (6).
- 22 Miss Wickfield collects silver coins up (5).
- 25 Battle order put out by saint (3).

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 13 of the 18 singles competitors in the National Final of *The Times* Abernethy Crossword Championship and by 2 of the 6 pairs in the doubles competition.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

LATEST ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410
Police PDS 0336 401 746
PZS and Link Roads 0336 401 767
National Motorways 0336 401 748
Commercial Europe 0336 401 910
Channel crossing 0336 401 388
Housing to Headrow & Galloway 0336 401 767

Weather by Fax 0336 401 767
Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax
Fax Country 416 326 Scotland 416 340
Wales 416 336 NI Ireland 416 341
Malta 416 336
East Asia 416 337 National Satellite
N. West 416 338 Weather planet 416 387
N. East 416 339
Machin Machines before leaving forecast 416 388

World City Weather 0336 416 124
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European fax code 0336 401 886
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HIGHEST & LOWEST
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Farnham, Cornwall, 14C (57F); lowest day temp: Loch Glacann, Highland, 5C (41F); highest night temp: Farnham, 10.1C (50.2F); lowest night temp: Loch Glacann, 2.8C (37.0F).

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AROUND BRITAIN

44 hrs to 5 p.m. by air: bright, clear, d- (drizzle), overcast, rain, drizzle, light rain, heavy rain, gale, heavy rain, light, becoming moderate later. Max 12C (54F).

□ NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Ground frost in places at first, then bright or sunny with the small risk of a shower. Wind westerly, moderate, later southwesterly, moderate to fresh. Max 12C (54F).

□ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Ground frost in places at first, then bright or sunny spells and mostly dry. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh. Max 12C (54F).

□ Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: Rather cloudy with outbreaks of rain, heavier and more persistent later. Wind southwesterly fresh, later fresh to strong with gales in more exposed places. Max 11C (52F).

□ Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Rain in the north spreading south. Windy again for a time.

□ Central S England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales: Variable cloud with sunny intervals, becoming cloudier towards evening. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh.

□ Central S England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales: Variable cloud with sunny intervals, becoming cloudier towards evening. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh.

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SUNNY

Sunny intervals
Cloudy
Drizzle
Overcast
Rain
Sunny showers
Sleet and sunny showers
Lightning
Hail
Snow
Temperature (Celsius)
Wind speed (mph) & direction
Sea conditions

Changes to chart below from noon: low M will push E, then SE and lose its identity. Low N will push NE and deepen. High D will be slow-moving with little change.

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The Entertainer comes back to malevolent life
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HOMES

How Mrs Price rescued her 17th-century hall
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James Capstick recounts life on the ocean waves
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TELEVISION AND RADIO

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30 1996



Ofwat demands price curb as dividends soar

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

WATER companies yesterday faced a fierce attack from the industry regulator, and were warned to curb prices next year after a series of large shareholder payouts and lower-than-expected

spending on pipelines. Ian Byatt, Director-General of Water Services, said companies that had deviated from spending plans submitted to him in the last pricing review should not raise water prices to the limit allowed under the present regulatory system. He took a swipe at the rate of dividend payments compared with profit levels and investment, saying: "Unless there are very good reasons, I do not approve of dividend payments from the regulated business to the parent group which are in excess of what is needed to meet the cost of capital and to distribute to shareholders a proper share of the benefits of greater efficiency." Companies will have to explain to Ofwat how their dividends have been established. Mr Byatt delivered his condemnation in Ofwat's annual report on financial performance and capital investment in the industry. It was released as Thames Water launched the reporting season for water companies with a 22 per cent increase in its interim dividend and a 15 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits.

Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, welcomed Ofwat's report as an endorsement of Labour's campaign against the behaviour of the water companies which it has waged in response to supply during the droughts and as a precursor for the planned utility windfall tax. He said: "It really beggars belief that these monopolies have been allowed to make record profits, pay out record dividends and make record low investments during the year which was undoubtedly their record worst performance for the customers." Ofwat will demand explanations from those companies who have underspent on their investment projections. It said not all companies had done so, and there could be legitimate reasons in some instances. Mr Byatt said there was no suggestion that water companies should be returned to annual monitoring of their spending as they experienced under state ownership. But he emphasised: "We must make sure that there is no slippage in their performance, which is critical to customers. These are serious issues which I am currently exploring with the companies concerned and with the quality regulators." The Water Services Association, which represents nine of the ten large privatised water companies, said water companies remained committed to investment. Julia Langdon, director, said: "Many things influence the timing of investment. These include the development of new technical solutions, the acquisition of planning permissions and need to schedule work so as to cause minimum disruption and inconvenience to local communities." She also said that companies had to prioritise work, such as dealing with last year's drought, improving leakage rates and responding to changing patterns in the construction industry. Mr Byatt underlined prospects for water bills to start falling in the next price review, set for 1999, when he said that many companies had shown they could become more efficient and improve services while cutting operating expenditure in real terms. He said these cost cuts could be passed on to customers at the next price review.

Thames Water increases interim payout 22%

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THAMES WATER ran into fresh controversy over utility dividends yesterday with a 22 per cent jump in its interim payment on the day the industry regulator issued a stern warning that companies should justify their payouts. The company lifted its interim dividend, payable on February 4, to 11.2p. It said the increased payment has been fuelled by a reduction in the number of shares from a share buy-back programme, a strong contribution to profits from non-regulated businesses and "sound profit growth" in the regulated utility. Thames bought back 10 per cent of its shares in July.

Frank Dobson, Shadow environment spokesman, said the results and the dividend rise were signs that Thames was "fleecing" its customers. He said: "The scandal of privatised Thames Water just goes on and on. Interim profits are up by 15 per cent to £188 million, dividends are up 22 per cent. But the customers aren't benefiting. They're simply being fleeced."

Mr Dobson said the average bill in the Thames area had climbed from £99 to £181 since privatisation. Thames, which has been reshaping its business after disappointing forays into non-core operations, increased pre-tax profits before exceptional for the six months to September 30 by 15 per cent to £188 million. One-off items, including £12.2 million on the premium of repurchasing convertible bonds alongside its last buyback of shares, cut the headline profit rise to 6 per cent, to £176 million.

Some of the extra cash will go to curbing leakage along with programmes to reduce sewer flooding. Plans to build a new reservoir in Oxfordshire are being brought forward and the company said it would also look at extending the ring main in London. Operating costs for utility operations increased 1.5 per cent above inflation. Thames said this was largely because of higher costs stemming from the dry summer and efforts to improve services. It forecast the rise in operating costs to be below inflation by the full-year results.

The regulated utility part of Thames Water provided for a dividend of £41.6 million to the parent company — up 7.5 per cent. Thames has largely withdrawn from design and contracting businesses and reported a rise in the profits of its non-regulated operations. Those businesses, including overseas projects, delivered pre-tax profits of £9 million, compared with a £3 million loss.

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Tempos, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	3993.5	(-31.8)
Yield	3.91%	
FTSE All share	1053.59	(-12.38)
Nikkei	20955.06	(+72.70)
New York	8278.22	(+5.59)
Dow Jones	898.21	(+1.05)
S&P Composite	698.21	(+1.05)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	100 1/2%	(99 1/2%)
Yield	6.75%	(6.84%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long bill	100 1/2%	(100 1/2%)
Future (Dec)	100 1/2%	(100 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.8101*	(1.8126)
London	1.8101	(1.8121)
DM	2.4316	(2.4508)
FF	1.2232	(1.2275)
Sfr	2.0214	(2.0317)
Yen	182.71	(184.18)
E index	83.1	(83.9)

\$\$\$ DOLLAR

London	1.8080*	(1.8184)
FF	8.0584*	(8.1325)
Sfr	1.2549*	(1.2510)
Yen	114.14*	(114.28)
E index	97.3	(97.5)

MONTHLY SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$23.50 (\$23.50)
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GOLD

London close	\$381.70 (\$383.25)
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* denotes midday trading price

Fraud concern

Senior City figures and politicians are becoming increasingly concerned about plans to move experienced Fraud Squad officers away from their specialist area and on to other unrelated duties. Page 26

More jobs

The creation of thousands of North Sea oil jobs was signalled when the Government approved a pipeline to Bacton in Norfolk from three new oil and gas discoveries. Page 26

The Times teams up with Sky

BUSINESS journalists from The Times will be featured in a nightly television programme starting on Monday on British Sky Broadcasting.

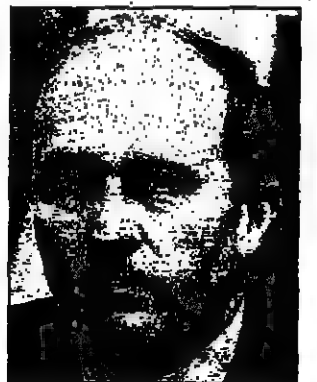
Sky Business Report will be hosted by Michael Wilson on Sky News every weeknight at 8.30. The programme will include reports from The Times newsroom from leading business commentators including Michael Clark, stock market correspondent, Lindsay Cook, business editor, Anne Ashworth, personal finance editor and Robert Miller, who was this week named as personal finance journalist of the year.

The programme will give highlights of the main business stories in the following day's edition of The Times. It will also focus on market trends, business technology, small businesses, corporate affairs and personal finance. Sky News broadcasts 24 hours a day to over 70 million viewers in more than 40 countries. Sky Business Report will also be viewed on Sky News Australia and the Fox News 24-hour US News Channel.

Bock's Lonrho stake for Anglo

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

DIETER BOCK, said yesterday he would step down as chief executive of Lonrho, the mining, hotels and African trading company, and announced that he was selling his remaining stake in the company for £258 million to Anglo-American, the South African mining company. He opted to put his 18.3 per cent stake in the company at 180p a share, fulfilling the terms of an agreement struck with Anglo in April. He will become non-executive deputy chairman of the company. Nicholas Morrell, previously deputy managing director, will become chief executive. Mr Bock said that he was selling the stake because he did not want to have influence at a crucial stage of the company's planned break-up and wanted to allay suspicion he would conclude the sell-off in terms that most suited his own interests. Mr Bock has also previously suggested that he would be interested in reinvesting the proceeds in Lonrho's African trading interests once the break-up is complete. The deal with Anglo, which now holds a 26 per cent stake in Lonrho, quashes speculation that the company had managed to unravel the option agreement with Mr Bock. Anglo insisted yesterday that its interest in Lonrho had never cooled, but ruled out making a takeover bid for the rump mining company once



Bock: stepping down

Lonrho completed its plans to spin off its hotel and African trading interests. Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of Anglo, said the company was making a long-term investment and was looking forward to supporting Lonrho's mining businesses. Anglo has been keen to expand its interests beyond its South African base. It insisted that it had established a good relationship with the Ashanti Goldfield company, in which Lonrho holds 30 per cent, although ultimate control rests with the Ghanaian Government. Lonrho added yesterday that it was close to finalising the sale of its hotel division. Prince al-Waleed bin Talal is believed to have offered about £350 million for the Princess chain, while Stakis, the leisure group, is rumoured to be the front-runner for the £300 million Metropole chain.

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Consumer credit grows by more than £1bn again

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

CONSUMER credit growth in September topped £1 billion for the third month running, while home loans approvals continued to rise, suggesting the pause in the high street recovery last month is likely to prove temporary. Consumer credit grew by £1.05 billion, despite a 0.3 per cent fall in retail sales and market expectations of a rise of around £830 million. The figures also showed that consumers were switching from credit card borrowing to credit deals offered by retailers. Growth in net mortgage lending slipped back in September from £1.58 billion to £1.35 billion. But the number of new mortgage loans continued to increase, with 94,000 new approvals in September, a 30 per cent rise year-on-year. M4, the measure of broad money supply, rose 0.8 per cent in September, bringing the annual growth rate to 9.9 per cent — just above the Government's monitoring range. Figures from the leading banks meanwhile, showed that total lending had risen £3.2 billion in the three months to the end of September, compared with £10.2 billion in the second quarter.

Stores warn of £3.5bn cost of EMU switch

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

EUROPEAN Monetary Union could land Britain's shops with a £3.5 billion bill unless current Brussels proposals are amended, retailers said yesterday. The euro is due to go into general circulation in January 2002, three years after EMU is implemented. The British Retail Consortium (BRC) recommends that, if Britain joins EMU, the switch to the new currency should occur overnight, as happened with decimalisation 25 years ago, rather than have the euro and the pound running in parallel for six months, as is currently proposed. The BRC also wants any switch delayed until February, a much quieter trading month. These changes could cut to £1.7 billion the cost to be borne by consumers, retailers, shareholders and taxpayers, said the BRC. The cost to retailers across the EU is estimated at £22 billion. The BRC said that it is neither for nor against Britain joining EMU. However, it said that retailers would be at the front line of implementation and would need three years to prepare. The £3.5 billion bill includes the cost of labelling in two currencies, training staff and adjusting software.

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Member HSBC Group

Loss of experienced fraud fighters worries City

BY ROBERT MILLER

SENIOR City figures, politicians and fraudbusters are becoming increasingly concerned about plans to move experienced fraud squad officers away from their specialist area and move them on to unrelated duties.

At a meeting of the Metropolitan Police Federation in London today the question of career management policy or tenure is expected to generate a heated debate over the most effective way to tackle the growing wave of international fraud. Much of the proceeds of such crimes are being laundered through the London banking system.

Under the controversial tenure policy it is planned to move officers after they have completed 15 consecutive years in a specialist area. One concession wrung from the authorities, however, is that the "specialists" could reapply to return to their former role after a two-year posting elsewhere. But because of the highly specialised nature of fraud investigations, which often cross a number of international jurisdictions, senior figures have gone on the record to spell out their concerns to *The Times*.

George Staple, Director of the Serious Fraud Office, said: "Co-operation with police fraud squads and ourselves has generally been very good. But both the police and ourselves have to

stay ahead of the fraudster. That means a high degree of specialisation which police officers must be given the opportunity to achieve by their long-term involvement in the investigation of serious fraud."

Mr Staple cited three of the most high-profile investigations, Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the Sumitomo copper affair and Barings, where the same police officers have been involved and brought an "enormous" amount of knowledge to bear.

Richard Clark, a partner in Slaughter & May, the City law firm that recovered £6 million for the Salvation Army after it fell victim to an international fraud, said: "Fraud is

a highly technical area which requires specialist knowledge and accumulated experience. It would be unfortunate if the ability of officers specialising in fraud was undermined by them being unable to remain in their specialist area."

Mike O'Brien, Labour's shadow Treasury spokesman, said: "The concern must be that moving experienced officers to other duties could undermine the important fight against complex fraud." Ian Westwood, vice chairman of the Police Federation, said there should be flexibility in implementing the tenure policy, particularly in specialist areas such as fraud.

Pennington, page 27

Pipeline promises North Sea jobs boost

BY GEORGE SIVELL

THE CREATION of thousands of North Sea oil jobs was signalled yesterday when the Government approved construction of a pipeline to Bacton in Norfolk from a clutch of three new oil and gas discoveries.

The Shearwater, Elgin and Franklin fields will soak up £2.5 billion of development costs.

The Shell group estimated yesterday that the British offshore construction industry would benefit to the tune of 4,000 man years.

The decision to build the pipeline to Bacton rather than Teesside, however, will disappoint British Gas. The company had lobbied hard to land the gas in the North of England.

The Labour party also protested against the decision. John Battle, the shadow minister for energy and industry, stated: "There is very little transparency of decision-making from the Government. On the one hand they say that they want to make Teesside the chemical capital of Europe, yet on the other, they have allowed the gas effectively to be piped straight to Europe when it could have been of significant benefit to Teesside."

Shell added that a "product stream providing chemicals feedstock could be routed through a new pipeline link to the central area transmission system to Teesside, depending on future demand in that location".

The Elgin, Franklin and Shearwater fields will soak the chemical, construction and gas industries in Teesside, Grangemouth and Bacton.

Shell yesterday awarded more than £320 million of contracts to Amec and SLP Engineering on Tyneside and Teesside.

Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said: "Shell and Elf, the fields operators, have put to me a proposal to separate offshore oil and substantial quantities of feedstocks to be piped to BP's Grangemouth plant, and to build a new pipeline to pipe the gas to Bacton in Norfolk."

"It has been suggested that I should direct the companies to build the pipeline to Teesside. I have concluded that I could not properly overrule the oil companies' proposals. Their preferred option keeps down the cost of extracting the oil and gas by some £200 million. Indeed, the companies have told me that without this pipeline route, the Shearwater project would not be economically viable and therefore might not go ahead."

"At the same time I have taken a number of measures to reassure the Teesside Chemicals Initiative (TCI) of the Government's long term commitment to the chemicals industry on Teesside."



HENRY ROBERTS, chief executive of Northumbrian Fine Foods, yesterday announced the company's first interim dividend payment in four years. The company reported a 10 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits to £409,000. The results were helped by a rise in productivity at its biscuit plant at Gateshead, after £1 million was invested in modernising production. After a full year from its wholesale distribution plant in Luton, overall sales were 8 per cent better, at £14.6 million. Earnings were 0.67p (0.6p) per share, leaving a 0.05p dividend, due on December 17.

Inquiry leads to fraud charges

BY PHILIP JOLINE

A SWISS bank in Jersey, one of its senior managers, and a former partner of Touche Ross, the accountant, face a total of 29 charges of fraud after investigations of alleged currency trading losses of \$26.7 million.

Cantrade Private Bank Switzerland (CI) Ltd, a subsidiary of Union Bank of Switzerland, says it will deny the 12 offences alleged to have committed between 1988 and 1993. The bank has suspended the manager involved, Peter Stoneman, pending the resolution of the nine charges against him.

The bank and Mr Stoneman have been charged under the Investors (Prevention of Fraud) (Jersey) Law, their alleged offences relating to the making of misleading and reckless statements and concealing material facts.

The former Touche Ross partner, Alfred Williams, a risk adviser who retired in 1994, faces eight charges alleging that he made reckless, misleading, false or deceptive statements.

All 29 charges relate to currency trading carried out in Jersey by Robert Young, who faced two fraud charges in Jersey in August. Ninety investors, who placed substantial funds with Dr Young via Swiss investment managers, allege that massive losses were hidden from them.

Dr Young, now at his Nottingham home on £10,000 bail, denies falsifying profit figures and concealing losses.

His company, Anagram Economics Ltd, was refused membership of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers in 1988.

Civil actions have been brought in Jersey against Cantrade and Touche Ross. Mr Williams is alleged to have audited Dr Young's figures claiming trading profits. Both Cantrade and Touche Ross deny the allegations.

Forecasters urge tax rise in Budget

THE CHANCELLOR should raise taxes in the Budget next month if he is to put public finances on a sound footing for the future, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research says in its latest forecast, published today. The Research says tax rises of approaching £3 billion, but institute advocates tax rises of approaching £3 billion, but assumes a cut of £4 billion in its economic forecasts as the likeliest outcome. This would encompass a reduction of income tax of 1p in the pound and increases in allowances.

Even after tax cuts next month, the institute believes that the public deficit will ease to less than 1 per cent of gross domestic product in the fiscal year 1998/99 and move to a surplus in 1999/2000. However, this depends on the Government maintaining very tight control of public spending, says the institute, which also forecasts that output will rise by more than 3 per cent in 1997 and 1998, and that unemployment will fall to below two million in the first quarter of next year and fall towards 1.75 million at the end of the century.

Unit trust sales fall

UNIT trust sales to private investors fell by more than £140 million in September to £204.9 million, the lowest monthly figure this year. Statistics from the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, however, show that overall net investment in the 1,666 unit trusts now on offer rose by £160 million to £825.2 million. Investors cashing in last month accounted for an outflow of £1.2 billion compared with £1 billion in August. Sales of unit trust personal equity plans at £327 million were £20 million higher while corporate bond Peps sold £76 million against £62 million in August.

Confidence limited

AN INDEPENDENT consumer watchdog has found that one in three investors have no confidence about leaving their money with a financial institution for a long time. The annual report from the independent consumer panel of the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) also calls for regulation to be extended to mortgage advice and long-term care protection. In the report, the panel adds: "We want people to have easy access to complaint and redress mechanisms."

Zeneca turns up volume

ZENECA, the drug group, reported a 14 per cent jump in sales to £4.01 billion in the first nine months of 1996. However, profit-taking after a recent strong run pushed down the shares 38p to £17.11. The company said the rise in sales was almost entirely because of strong volume growth in its pharmaceuticals division, volumes were helped by new product launches, but pricing pressures continue, particularly in Japan and some European countries.

Pressac pulls ahead

OVERSEAS demand helped Pressac Holdings, the car parts manufacturer, to turn in its strongest year-end results as exports overtook its domestic turnover for the first time. A 27 per cent lift in its sales to the US helped overall turnover to rise 20 per cent to £10.7 million. This took profits to £6.45 million (£4.61 million) before tax, leaving earnings of 11.3p (9.0p) per share. A final dividend of 2.91p payable on December 13, makes a yearly total of 3.9p (3.5p).

Flemings to close fund

FLEMINGS, the investment trust house, plans to wind up the Fleming High Income Investment Trust because of disappointing performance. The 7,000 investors with £35 million in the fund will be offered either cash or a switch to the £170 million Fleming Claverhouse Investment Trust, the Save & Prosper Growth Fund, the Save & Prosper Premier Equity Income Fund, or the Save & Prosper Cash fund. Flemings and Save & Prosper are both subsidiaries of Robert Fleming.

Hotel float still on

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND HOTELS has confirmed it still aims to come to market early next month in a flotation that will value the company at £30.4 million. Doubts had been raised about the viability of a further hotel float after Principle Hotels decided to pull its flotation last week. The Hamish Grossart, chairman of Scottish, said the company had received strong institutional support and the float should proceed as planned on November 11 at a placing price of 125p.

Hidden insurance costs

HOUSEHOLDERS are paying £1.1 billion in hidden commission on home insurance, Direct Line, the UK's largest telephone-based insurer, has claimed. This equals 20 per cent of all premiums paid in 1995, it said. The insurer accuses rival banks and building societies of "restrictive practices" in home insurance and called for the law to split insurance from home loans. Intermediaries employed by banks and societies alone earned £720 million on home insurance in 1995, it said.

Reprieve on school fees

THE TREASURY has announced a reprieve for thousands of parents and grandparents threatened with loss of tax relief on school fees annuity plans after the Charity Commission withdrew the plans' charitable status earlier this year. Michael Jack, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday confirmed that plans taken out on or before June 20 1996 will continue to operate tax free, even if they have lost charitable status. Income from plans taken out after June 20 will be taxed.

TOURIST RATES

	Sept	Sept
	1995	1996
Australia \$	2.13	1.87
Austria Sch	18.16	18.08
Belgium F	33.25	48.93
Canada \$	2.270	2.110
Cyprus Cyp	0.778	0.721
Denmark Kr	8.94	5.14
Finland Mkr	7.88	7.24
France F	8.84	7.98
Germany DM	2.59	2.36
Greece Dr	13.07	12.07
Hong Kong \$	11.5	9.5
Ireland £	1.04	0.98
Israel Sh	5.50	4.85
Italy Lira	2556	2401
Japan Yen	167.80	161.60
Malta	0.617	0.562
Netherlands Gld	2.888	2.658
New Zealand \$	2.43	2.21
Norway Kr	10.88	10.08
Portugal Esc	287.50	288.00
S Africa R	8.08	7.28
Spain Pta	162.00	169.00
Sweden Kr	11.20	10.40
Switzerland Fr	2.15	1.97
Turkey Lira	157.000	149.000
USA \$	1.707	1.577

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at 22nd of trading yesterday.

Watchdog delays gas competition

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE-AND-A-HALF million gas customers face a longer wait before they can shop around for their gas supplies. The delayed extension of gas competition, announced yesterday by Ofgas, was made to give British Gas more time to adapt its systems.

Dorset and the old county of Avon will get competitive supplies in household gas from February 10, while Kent and East and West Sussex should benefit after March 7. The two dates are about a month later than anticipated.

The change comes after a series of hitches in the first

round of competition in the South West. Many consumers complained that they had been mistakenly transferred to new suppliers and a substantial number received freak bills from British Gas for end-of-account settlement after problems with computers at TransCo, the pipelines division.

The Gas Consumers Council welcomed the delay. Sue Slipman, the director, said: "GCC wants domestic competition to be a success. If problems are not ironed out by the start of phase two it could bring domestic competition into disrepute."

Chernin appointed first president of News Corp

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

PETER CHERNIN has been appointed president and chief operating officer of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. He is the first person to hold the title.

Mr Chernin, 45, is currently chairman and chief executive of Fox Filmed Entertainment. Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, said that the North American operations of the group would be consolidated under the Fox Group, of which Mr Chernin will be chairman and chief executive officer.

Chase Carey, 42, is appointed co-chief operating officer and will continue as chairman and chief executive of Fox Television.

Mr Chernin, Mr Carey and Lachlan Murdoch, who was appointed managing director of News Limited in Australia during September, have been elected to the News Corp board.

The office of the chairman will be established with management responsibility for the worldwide operations of News Corp and will consist of Rupert Murdoch, Mr Chernin, Mr Carey, David De Voe, senior executive vice-president

and chief financial officer, and Arthur Siskind, senior executive vice-president and group general counsel.

"These appointments are designed to strengthen the management and coordination of the company throughout the world," Mr Murdoch said. "I look forward to working even closer with Messrs Chernin and Carey. With their widely expanded responsibilities I expect them to make a huge contribution both to our strategic planning and to the effectiveness of all our operations."

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Electricity bid battle hotting up

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

CE ELECTRIC, the UK arm of the US group making a hostile bid for Northern Electric, bought more shares in the regional electricity company yesterday. Its holding is now expected to top 13 per cent.

A range of large institutions told the Stock Exchange they had sold large stakes in Northern, which is attempting to fight its second hostile bid in as many years.

CE Electric, a venture between US companies Cal Energy and Peter Kiewit, is refusing to make its offer final amid speculation that an agreed deal could be struck for a higher price. It has offered 630p an ordinary share, while Northern has indicated £7 as a more realistic figure.

The share price fell 8p to 639p yesterday. But unless there are further substantial falls, the US group will probably have to raise its offer.

Scholar team targets Nottingham Forest

BY JASON NISSE

IRVING SCHOLAR, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman whose desperate attempts to shore up club finances in the early Nineties led him to a controversial deal with Robert Maxwell, has emerged as part of a three-man consortium planning a £30 million deal to take over Nottingham Forest, the Premiership football club.

The main force behind the bid is Lawrie Lewis, a founder of Blenheim, the exhibitions group that was bought by United News & Media this month for £600 million.

The third member of the group is Phil Soar, a football historian and Forest fan who replaced Mr Lewis as Blenheim's managing director in 1991 but was forced to resign three years later.

They are proposing to buy the club for £5 million and inject a further £5 million,



Scholar: consultant's role.

club, which is currently controlled by 209 shareholders.

At least three quarters of the shareholders have to vote in favour of the proposals for a deal to proceed, Fred Reader, Forest's chairman, will give an update tomorrow on the sale plans at the club's annual meeting, at which he is also expected to stand down.

Mr Lewis, who lives in Monaco, plans to be club chairman in spite of having little interest in football.

Mr Scholar will be a consultant on footballing matters. He was Spurs chairman for nine years, during which time it became the first publicly quoted football club in England.

In 1990, his deal to borrow money from Mr Maxwell to complete the purchase of Gary Lineker led to a consortium from the Stock Exchange. He left after Spurs was rescued by a consortium led by Terry Venables and Alan Sugar the next year.

Lotus revs up for £64n rescue deal

BY FRASER NELSON

LOTUS, the troubled car manufacturer, is expected to announce today that it has struck a £64 million rescue deal with Protan, the Malaysian car manufacturer, saving the British motor legend from an uncertain future.

Protan is understood to have offered £52 million for 80 per cent stake, while agreeing to take on £12 million of Lotus's debt. Romano Artioli the Lotus chairman, will retain the remaining 20 per cent.

The deal comes after Lotus's failed negotiations with Daewoo, the Korean car manufacturer, and Chris Evans, chairman of TOAD, the security company, Mr Evans, who raised £50 million in preparation for the deal, said he had pulled out after discovering that General Motors had withdrawn its support. The order made up more than half of Lotus's sales.

□ Labour targets Thames, and others □ Policeman's lot should be a steady one □ Retailers want early Euro decision

Tapped into mainstream politics

□ YOU would think it slightly peculiar if the electricity to your home was regularly interrupted during the evening because too many people were watching *Coronation Street*. British Gas has not yet — not yet, though give them time — had to disconnect its customers in their thousands because it is a bit chilly outside. Even the telephone system gets cheaper and more reliable year by year.

By the standards of other utilities, the water industry is offering an appalling service. Much of the industry is unable to supply its main commodity in the quantity its customers demand for months at a time. We take this for granted, however hard we grumble, because water is somehow different.

Labour, though it may at first have flailed around attacking all available targets in the utilities, has realised lately that on water the party may be on the safest ground. The party chose the day before the start of the interim reporting season to "reveal" the disquiet of Ian Byatt, the water regulator, about rising dividends and falling investment. This was confirmed by Mr Byatt, whose annual report on the day Thames Water announced its figures also does not look like coincidence.

The difference in approach is instructive. Mr Byatt merely

suggests, in tones that express more sorrow than anger, that there seem to be cases where companies were spending more money on their shareholders than on keeping the pipes in good repair. He wondered why those companies had not taken the opportunity to explain the doubtless excellent reasons why this should be. He pointed no finger of blame.

Labour named the guilty men. The biggest cuts in investment were by North West, already labelled the biggest fat cat of them all and so a fair target, Severn Trent and, oh yes, Thames. All very unscientific, taking just one year's figures, and probably unfair, but good politics.

Assume, for a moment, a Labour government. A windfall utilities tax is then inevitable, with water bearing the brunt. Again unfair, and possibly counter-productive in its effects on investment, but again good politics. Labour is looking towards a form of regulation that is effectively profit-sharing, splitting the excess above given profit limits between company and consumer. The disadvantage is

that it encourages under-reporting of profits. Mr Byatt is moving that way, if slowly, by linking achieved investment levels to allowed price increases.

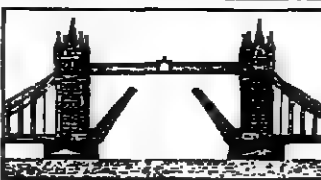
The paradox is that by shouting so loud about a utilities tax, Labour is tempting companies to offload as much spare cash as they can to shareholders before the election. A tax thereafter would genuinely deprive them of cash needed for investment, and repairs to cut leaks.

And guess which three companies, according to the regulator, have the worst record for leaks? Yorkshire, of course, Severn Trent again — and Thames.

Fewer moves to combat fraud

□ REGULAR career moves make sense in many areas of policing. No one is perfect, and too long an immersion in vice, or drugs, or any other specialised area carries the danger of, to put it at its politest, going native. Fraud is a little different. For all the gung-ho talk about beating international fraud, the truth is

PENNINGTON



that at best the fraudbusters are just about stemming the flow of illegal money entering the British banking system. What is worrying agencies such as the Serious Fraud Office is that if that policy of tenure is applied rigidly to fraud squads then years, often decades of experience, are lost.

Investigations involving such scums as Nigerian letters, standby fee fraud often take years and cross four or five, or even more, jurisdictions. At the end, investigators are lucky if they can prosecute even one of the ringleaders. Experience gleaned on such cases is invaluable for later inquiries, as are the personal contacts built up with

overseas agencies such as Interpol, the FBI and others. More than \$50 billion has flowed out of the former Soviet Union since the collapse of communism, much of it absorbed directly into the international and banking systems. Most is almost certainly the proceeds of organised crime.

Most serving police officers accept that in the past there have been corrupt links between police and villains. But pay and conditions have improved and the chances of fraud squad officers, and most other policemen, becoming too close to their quarry is far less likely nowadays. Rather than force fraud squad officers to move on, possibly to be lost for good, one suggestion gaining support from those on the ground is that recruits should spend longer on other police duties before being seconded to fraud.

Currently, officers are moving into fraud after only short periods elsewhere. Far better they should gain experience in a broad variety of policing work before ending up in their chosen specialisation. There has been

plenty said about the difficulty of jurors facing up to fraud trials; the police have a steep learning curve to climb too.

Nightmare on EMU street

□ IF anything can be said for certain about the eventual switch-over to European Monetary Union, it is that the first few days will be a nightmare. Comparisons are being drawn with Decimal Day in 1971, but they are false. D-Day required a fairly simple conversion rate, 240 to 100. By contrast, the ecu is currently standing at 1,2687 to the pound, not a sum that lends itself easily to mental arithmetic.

The opportunities for a little fraud by retailers are plentiful — there was enough around in 1971. A big difference, though, is that in the early 1970s retail transactions were conducted in cash and by cheque. A conversion to a new currency today would require the overhaul of the software controlling every online direct debit and credit card payment system. The opportu-

nities for electronic chaos — well, one might prefer to stick with the fraud alone.

The views of the British Retail Consortium, that the switch-over will need three years of preparation, look optimistic. They are repeating only what the City has been saying for years, that those preparations require a decision to be made well ahead of any conceivable political timetable. If the political decision to stay out then goes against the practical decision to prepare for going in, an awful lot of money is going to be wasted by all concerned.

There used to be — there may still be — a quaint little pub near the Angel, Islington, whose unique selling point was to price everything in the old, pre-decimal money. Any budding entrepreneur looking for a new theme for a chain of bars come 2002 might give the place a visit.

Kicked off?

□ CHELSEA Village, owner of the football club, yesterday gave its unanimous support to Ken Bates, the chairman, after speculation that he might be replaced by Peter Middleton, the former Lloyd's boss. This must be the same "unanimous support" traditionally given in soccer to a club's manager on the eve of his dismissal. Expect Mr Bates's departure by Christmas, then.

Chairman of Matthew Clark dies

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MATTHEW CLARK, the troubled drinks company, announced yesterday that Michael Cottrell, chairman, had died on Monday.

Mr Cottrell, 57, became chairman in 1992 and oversaw Matthew Clark's transformation into a major cider and drinks company through the acquisitions of Taunton and Gaymer. Mr Cottrell, who was also chairman of Enterprise Inns, was previously chairman of Taunton and managing director of Courage, the brewers.

The company said that Michael Garner, a non-executive director, would serve as acting chairman while the company hunted for a successor to Mr Cottrell.

Matthew Clark, which issued a profits warning in September, also unveiled a number of other management changes as the company began to outline its strategy to restore the company to

growth. The company's shares have more than halved since it issued the warning, which blamed the growth in popularity of "alcopops" for a collapse in sales of its premium packaged cider brands.

Peter Aikens, chief executive, has assumed direct control of the branded drinks division. The company is also seeking to appoint a marketing director at board level, while Andrew Nash, currently managing director, will leave because the position is becoming redundant.

Matthew Clark added that it would boost its marketing and sales team in the branded drinks division and is looking to recruit 40 additional personnel. The conclusions of a strategic review of the division, which produces brands such as Diamond White and Dry Blackthorn, will be completed by early January. The initiatives pleased the City and the shares rose 15p to close at 315p.

Float may conjure up £66m value for Druid

DRUID, an IT consultancy, is coming to the stock market via a placing that could value the company at up to £65.9 million (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company hopes to raise £6 million from new shares, of which 14.4 million will be available to investors. It will use the money to redeem £3.3 million of its preference shares and to open a new office.

Druid, formed from a management buyout in 1993, works exclusively with busi-

ness software. More than 90 per cent of its business comes from SAP software, Europe's largest-selling integrated business system.

In the year to June 30 Druid had pre-tax profits of £3 million (£1.3 million) from sales of £12 million (£6.2 million). It has forecast that it will make at least £1.75 million in the current half.

SBC Warburg estimates the value of shares at between 230p and 290p each.



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Pearson at record high as Carlton waits in the wings

ANOTHER burst of speculative buying lifted Pearson, the multimedia specialist, to yet another high amid claims that Carlton Communications may be ready to pounce.

Pearson, which owns the Financial Times, Madame Tussauds, Thames Television, Penguin Books and Lazard Frères merchant bank, finished 18.5p dearer at a high of 750.5p as 3.6 million shares changed hands in a thin market.

Only last week, BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, denied claims it was ready to bid. This time it was Carlton said to be lining up a bid of around 800p a share, valuing Pearson at £4.56 billion.

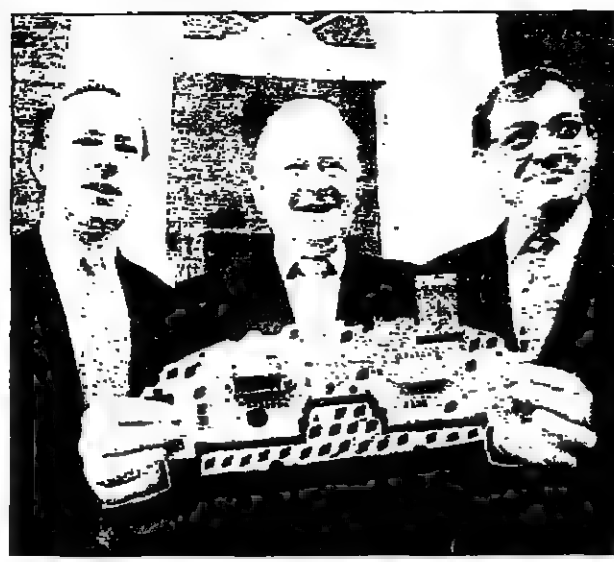
Any move is likely to be rejected by Pearson's beleaguered management that included the appointment of Majorie Scudamore as chief executive. Carlton, the independent broadcaster which now controls the independent television franchise for the London midweek area, has continued to confound the City by its seeming reluctance to make any further acquisitions, despite intense speculation to the contrary.

Some say Carlton may choose to wait until after the laws on media ownership are relaxed next month, allowing the group to make a bid for another broadcaster. A spokesman for Carlton denied the group planned to bid for Pearson. Carlton ended 2p easier at 530p, where the group carries a stock market price tag of almost £3 billion.

The rest of the equity market continued to lose ground after the overnight setback for the Dow Jones average. It dipped back below the 4,000 level as investors turned cautious ahead of next week's US presidential election. An opening rally last night by the Dow failed to inject any renewed enthusiasm, with the FT-SE 100 index closing 31.8 points down at 3,993.5 in thin volume of 694 million shares.

Profit-taking in Northern Electric after the bid and suspended down raid by CE Electric, the US power generator. The price finished the day 8.5p cheaper at 630.5p as almost 4.5 million shares changed hands.

The terms of the bid value Northern at £677 million. Hopes among City speculators about a higher price being



Pressac's Geoffrey White, left, Roger Boissier, centre, and Huw Lewis, finance director saw the shares rise 12.5p

paid by CE Electric appear to be fading. Last week's refusal by the Government to allow bids by Severn Trent and Wessex for South West to proceed made a home-grown counterbid seem remote. East Midlands Electricity, another possible takeover target, finished 3p easier at 542.5p.

Takeover favourite Zeneca was an early casualty as the

say Zeneca is continuing to lag behind the progress made by some of its rivals. Brokers like Credit Lyonnais Laing are reluctant to urge clients to sell the shares, despite their high rating, saying the potential for a bid for Zeneca, or even a merger, is still high.

British Biotech fell 20p to 220.5p as a large parcel of shares went through the mar-

shares, or around 5 per cent. Water shares gained ground after the industry regulator called for them to explain their dividend policies. Thames Water, which kicked off the interim dividend season with some impressive profit numbers, rose 7.5p to 322.5p. There were also gains for Hyder, 20p to 700.5p, Severn Trent, 13p to 617.5p, and Yorkshire Water, 18p to 604.5p. South West fell a further 2.5p to 592.5p.

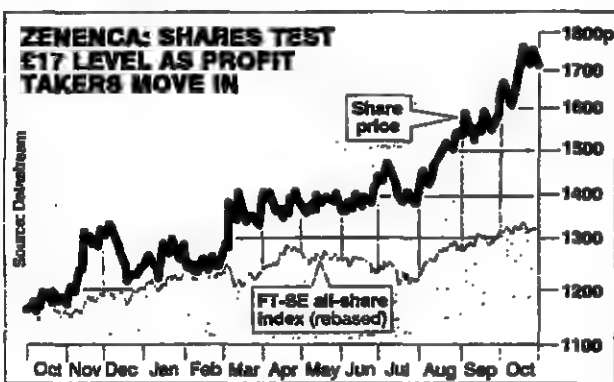
Speculative buying lifted Lonrho 4.5p to 163.5p despite denials from Anglo American that it intends to make a full bid after the purchase of an 18.3 per cent stake belonging to Dieter Bock, the Lonrho chief executive. It lifts Anglo's total holding to almost 26 per cent, which it describes as a long-term investment.

News that Matthew Clark intends to maintain the interim dividend was warmly received by the City and the shares rallied 15p to 315p. Bumper profits lifted Pressac Holdings, the specialist engineers and manufacturers whose chairman is Roger Boissier and chief executive Geoffrey White, 12.5p to 217.5p. At the pre-tax level they grew 40 per cent to £6.4 million with demand said to be at record levels.

Further reflection of its joint venture with the BBC raised Fleetstar 21p to 611p and shares of Penza Holdings were suspended at 125p pending several acquisitions.

GILT-EDGED: Prices in London opened lower, reflecting similar falls on overseas bond markets. A stronger than expected rise in consumer credit succeeded in driving prices even lower. London was able to claw back most of the early losses with the help of former US treasury bonds on the back of a less than expected rise in US chain store sales.

In futures the December series of the long gilt rallied to close all-square on the session at £109.75 after briefly touching £109.50. A total of 32,000 contracts were traded. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished three ticks cheaper at £100.75, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was one tick firmer at £103.75. NEW YORK: Pre-presidential election concern held back shares on Wall Street, where even a bond rally failed to excite. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 5.59 points ahead at 5,978.32.



Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

COMMODITIES

WTW Intermediate (Jan)		235	-0.75
PRODUCTS (\$/MT)			
Spot CIF NW Europe (Brod oil)			
	Premium (Older)		
Premium Unkd.	225.1-20	224.1-20	
Light LCL	225.1-20	224.1-20	
20 Fuel	225.1-20	224.1-20	
Naphtha	224.1-20	223.1-20	
IPE FUTURES (\$/MT)			
45N OIL			
Dec.	223.07-25.12	Mar.	206.25-08
Jan.	219.09-16.25	Mar.	207.50-01
Jul.	214.19-14.25		
IBEX (\$/cwt)			
Dec.	22.76-25.79	Mar.	22.12-12.17
Jan.	22.45-25.79	Apr.	21.47
Jul.	22.76-25.79	Apr.	21.47
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
3 Month (Volume per day)			
Copper (Dec 4 & 4 months)			
Feb. 1994	154.04-15.51	Jan.	152.02-20.50
Dec. 1994	154.04-15.51	Jul.	157.07-20.70
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THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Direct Line
for Robinson

PETER ROBINSON, the ousted chief executive of the Woolwich, will soon be working for Direct Line.

More than six months after he left the third largest building society, heading for a £3 billion flotation, he has decided to act as a consultant for the insurance company. Turning a new leaf on the allegations that he was involved in a year of irregularities concerning expenses and other perks — which he denied — Robinson will work with Peter Wood, chief executive, from Friday. Having had several options, Robinson said: "What impressed me most about Direct Line was its absence of bureaucracy and dogma."

Glad is Knight

FUNKY Angela Knight is clearly keeping abreast of the music scene. Speaking at a Big Bang conference yesterday, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury wowed her audience with an in-depth knowledge of the pop charts. "Ten years ago, on the threshold of the Big Bang, when Dire Straits hit the headlines, the domestic equity market turnover on the London Stock Exchange was £181.2 billion," she said. "Today, when all those of you men with red blood in your veins are watching the Spice Girls perform on television, the performance of domestic equities on the London Stock Exchange is some £646 billion."



"Never mind the weather - I'm watching the Footie"

Faith rewarded

TWO insurance executives have shot to the top of the Irish charts with an album of traditional hymns. John Kearns, who works for Hibernian Insurance, and his friend Bernard Bennett, general manager at Penco Insurance, are all set to pick up a double platinum for *Faith of Our Fathers*. The album features 20 hymns, including "Hail Queen of Heaven" and "Soul of my Saviour", from 52 musicians. Within its first week, the duo has recouped the £90,000 that they spent making the album. "Record company executives told us that we were committing financial suicide," Kearns says.

President Powell

BUSINESSMEN staying at The Athenaeum Hotel in Piccadilly would choose Colin Powell as US President. Out of 320 guests surveyed, a quarter plumped for the Gulf War veteran. Of current contestants who would make the best President, Bill Clinton was the favourite, followed by Bob Dole, then his running mate Jack Kemp. Big Bird, Barbara Cartland, OJ Simpson, and Hillary Clinton's hair stylist were among the more bizarre choices.

WHEN Luke "Skywalker" Johnson was appointed to the board of Shield yesterday, his share price shot up from 4.5p to 6.5p. As chairman of PizzaExpress and a non-executive director of My Kinda Town, the eligible bachelor and Oxford graduate has persuaded investors that the property dealing and development group is an incredible catch. The company will now be known as Lonsdale.

MORAG PRESTON

Richard Thomson on the chain's new lease of life

Hard Rock Café goes for a bigger slice of the action

YOU've travelled all the way to the Taj Mahal, a journey many people only dream about. Full of awe, you walk inside to be greeted by pounding rock music and the smell of hamburgers; on the walls hang electric guitars and other rock memorabilia. You sit down and order a plate of fries from the waitress...

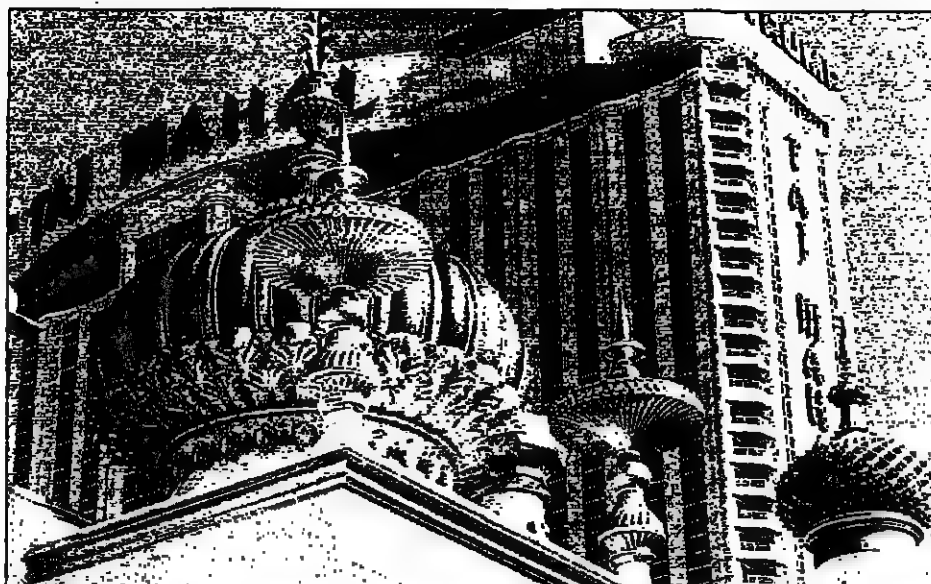
You are, of course, in the Atlantic City Taj Mahal casino, but perhaps more importantly you are sitting in the Hard Rock Café — or you will be once it opens next month. You are also encountering what is becoming one of the world's fastest growing brand names.

Ever since Andrew Tesse took over as head of the Rank Organisation and paid \$400 million earlier this year to buy out the remaining 40 per cent shareholding in Hard Rock owned by Peter Morton, the restaurant chain has taken on a new lease of life.

Rank now controls the brand worldwide and intends to drive it for all it is worth. Under Jim Berk, the president and chief executive of Hard Rock, the aim is to build the brand in the way that Richard Branson has expanded the Virgin name. Mr Berk said: "The thing we have to be careful of is not to hurt the credibility of the concept the founders started."

The restaurant chain is now proposing to fix up the Trump Castle, owned by Donald Trump, the flamboyant American property mogul and owner of the Taj Mahal, in its characteristic style of pop memorabilia and informal eating. Hard Rock will take 100 per cent of the revenues of the restaurant it installs there, but will take no part in the gambling or hotel part of the business.

What Mr Trump gets from this arrangement is an association with the increasingly valuable Hard Rock brand. Desperate to make his casinos more attractive in the face of growing competition from



A Hard Rock Café is to open at the Atlantic City Taj Mahal casino next month



Jim Berk does not want to harm the credibility of the Hard Rock Café concept



trendier rivals, the Hard Rock theme ought to attract the younger crowd of gamblers who normally shun the rather staid establishments of Atlantic City.

These moves, however, are only one part of the expansion planned by Hard Rock's aggressive US based manage-

ment. There are now more than 60 of its restaurants around the world, but a further 22 are opening between now and 1997 in new areas such as Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. A few will be franchises, but the company prefers to run them itself because that way, it

says, it can more easily ensure the style and quality. Since there are already Hard Rock Cafés in many of the main cities in the western world, the company is planning to invent new themed restaurants so that it can have three or four in the same city — all under different dis-

guises. But the priority is developing the Hard Rock brand itself, which represents to its youthful clients a seductive image of cool rebelliousness, rock music, and nifty merchandise.

As a natural extension of this franchise, Hard Rock is building its live music subsidiary and developing its own recording label, which will put out compilations of classic rock and new artists.

As well as using normal music outlets, it will sell its music through its own stores, which already turn over other merchandise worth about half the chain's total revenues.

Building on the restaurant's status as a "destination location" — just look at the queues outside the Hard Rock on Piccadilly near Hyde Park Corner — it is also planning branded hotels and resorts. "We're thinking of anti-establishment resorts," Mr Berk said, meaning user-friendly places with big TVs, fabulous sound systems, and a cool attitude that will attract the young.

"Seven months ago when we bought out Peter Morton we had no business development department. Now we have 12 people working on it," Mr Berk said. But while the plan to build on the brand name makes good sense, it will not be cheap. "We're spending a lot of money," he added.

Fortunately, Rank has cash coming from sales of assets such as its stake in Rank Xerox to pay for expenditures such as the \$80 million being pumped into new Hard Rock restaurants over the next 16 months. Equally, fortunately, the restaurants give fast and generous returns. At present, the chain is worth about \$400 million, with an annual return of about \$100 million.

The expansion of the brand and of public recognition of the Hard Rock name will also hit at the encroaching opposition. The Hard Rock Café was founded in London in 1971 by Mr Morton and Isaac Tigrett as a kind of American diner with attitude. It was an immediate hit and it was only a matter of time before imitators came along.

The most successful has been Planet Hollywood, a diner themed on Hollywood films and backed by Hollywood stars such as Sylvester Stallone. It chooses sites near to Hard Rock Cafés, serves similar food and has gained a considerable following. If it comes to a fight to the death between the chains, brand recognition will be crucial — just as it is between Coca-Cola and Pepsi.

Mr Berk's ambition is to convert Hard Rock from being simply an "entertaining dining experience" to a fully-fledged international entertainment and leisure group.

The process is just beginning. But if he succeeds, Rank may find itself the owner of one of the best known — and most precious — brands in the world.

British Airways may yet have its wings clipped

The American alliance could stifle competition, says David Coltman

ONE of the longest ministerial deliberations of an Office of Fair Trading report must shortly come to an end with a statement by Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, on the proposed British Airways-American Airlines alliance.

Why has it taken so long? We believe it is because the OFT has agreed with the views of a range of neutral organisations — from the Consumers' Association to the Air Transport Users Committee — and found this proposal to be anti-competitive. By favouring a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the OFT has made life rather uncomfortable for Mr Lang.

He must keep the consumer interest in mind as election time looms, but he is also under pressure from those who characterise the BA/AA proposal as good for "UK plc". Advocates of the alliance assume a protected home market monopoly position for BA must be good for British civil aviation as a whole, and choose to ignore any adverse impact on UK consumers.

The outcome of this debate is important to travellers to and from the UK. They may live with the impact of this decision for years to come, and if the alliance goes forward, they will certainly feel it in the long term through even higher air fares.

BA's business fares to the US from Heathrow continue to rise, being the highest per mile from any European city. Since BA formed its alliance with USAir in 1993, fares have continued to rise. The claims from BA/AA that the merger of the two largest carriers will increase competition and lower fares is simply not credible.

We believe the OFT recognises that as BA and American would have a huge market share at Heathrow, there is no prospect that business fares will come down.

BA has promoted its alliance as good for some foreign travellers using the airport as a connecting point. But why should British or American business passengers have to cross-subsidise these travellers by paying higher fares?

We are aware that BA holds up our alliance with Lufthansa as justification for its own plans. "You have built your

house, now let us build ours," the argument goes. Of course, each alliance presents different competition issues for regulators. Our alliance created no monopoly routes, was not opposed by any consumer groups and was thoroughly scrutinised by the regulators.

BA says United and Lufthansa have a higher share of slots at Frankfurt than BA and American have at Heathrow. This is misleading because, unlike Heathrow, Frankfurt is not saturated. BA has a far higher share of available slots at Heathrow, than Lufthansa has of such slots at Frankfurt.

But there are other points which need consideration. This is a global business where all of us contribute to trade and economies around the world.

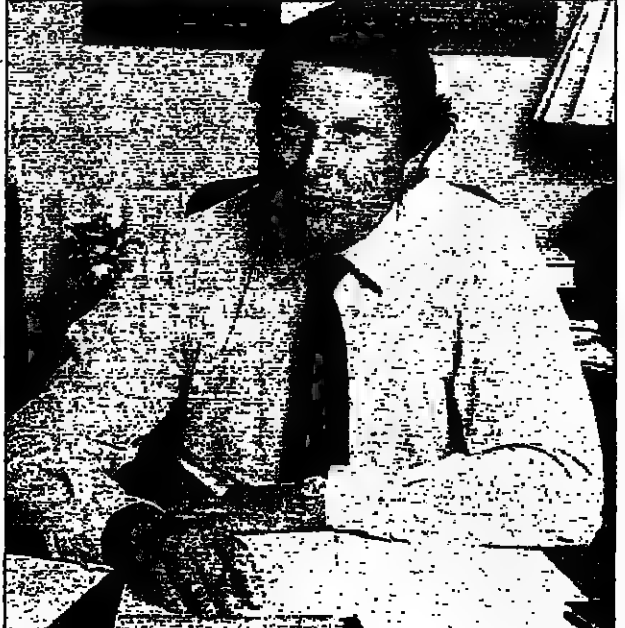
Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, welcomes foreign investment in the UK. But we too are making a significant contribution. United supports more than 2,000 British jobs. We have also boosted European economies by ordering 74 Airbus aircraft, directly participating in the success of

companies such as British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce. BA has never chosen to invest in Airbus products.

There really is more to the UK aviation industry than just BA. Would it really be right to promote that airline's interests at the expense of others such as Virgin or British Midland?

So what should Mr Lang do? Ideally, he should still consider referring the deal to the MMC, although political expediency may intervene. If there is no referral, he has to ensure that a competitive structure is put in place that allows all airlines to compete on a fair and equal basis. In particular, airlines such as United and Virgin should be given the means to create real competition for BA/AA at Heathrow. After all, if we were brewers the OFT would be trying to achieve just that — to protect beer drinkers from higher prices through healthy competition.

The real solution is expansion of runways at Heathrow — but that will not happen. So Mr



David Coltman wants the MMC to look at the alliance

Lang must ensure that BA/AA are not allowed to duplicate services at Heathrow or monopolise available slots. Any proposals should be subject to wide consultation: the OFT has promised as much already.

But what is not fully understood in the UK is that there are other hurdles to overcome. Currently there is no legal mechanism for slot redistribution at Heathrow to those airlines best able to compete with BA and American. This mechanism must be created. In addition, there has to be a process to ensure that other airlines are able to compete by offering the same kind of single-terminal connecting flights envisaged by BA and American. That means addressing the issue of terminal space.

There also has to be agreement between the US and UK on so-called Open Skies — the right for airlines to fly where they want, when they want.

BA and American can expect intense scrutiny from the US Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation. Americans have a legitimate interest in the outcome, and their needs will be looked at closely. There is no guarantee that the American regulators will share the same conclusion as the UK or the European Commission, which is carrying out its own investigation.

It is also inevitable that regulators will require that BA disinvest in USAir, the world's eighth largest airline, and its existing US alliance partner. USAir itself wants out.

Alliances can work for consumers, as well as the companies they serve. The regulators have a duty to ensure that alliances enhance, not stifle, competition. BA and American's credentials as sensible partners are flimsy because their networks at Heathrow overlap so comprehensively. If they were telecommunications companies, bus operators or brewing giants, it is doubtful that they would make it out of the gate. The BA/AA proposal may yet have its wings clipped and fail to fly at least as currently envisaged. Business travellers should keep their fingers crossed.

David Coltman is Senior Vice-President — Marketing, United Airlines

BUSINESS LETTERS

Stronger sterling and periodic crises are reasons to join EMU

From Mr Jerry Jackson
Sir, I read with interest Anatole Kaletsky's article (Exporters should start their prayers before sterling soars) on October 11.

If for short-term political expediency the next UK Government fails to place sufficient emphasis on the control of public spending, then, Kaletsky suggests, the next Chancellor may tolerate excessive strengthening of sterling in the short term, allowing the seeds to be sown for the next sterling crisis.

He also makes the point that such crises have been a depressingly regular part of the post-war UK economy.

And more recently I would suggest, aided by huge advancements in information technology, these crises are

more easily heightened by the actions of speculators, resulting in even greater consequential damage to the economy (eg. George Soros in September 1992).

Until now I have believed the UK Government should be very circumspect before deciding to enter into monetary union with our European partners.

Now, in complete contrast to his previous anti-EMU utterances, I believe Kaletsky may have put forward the strongest argument for our early entry into the EMU.

Yours faithfully,
JERRY JACKSON,
Managing director,
H. W. Wallace & Co,
172 St James' Road,
Croydon.

BAA retailing popular among passengers

From the Director,
Corporate and Public
Affairs, BAA plc.

Sir, One tries to be kind, but frankly Sir Terence Conran is in danger of becoming a national bore on the subject of retailing at BAA's airports.

What is it that really worries him? Is it our success?

It can't be the effect on our customers, because 90 per cent of passengers say that they want to see high quality shopping facilities at airports. Indeed, they continue to propose additional shops they would like to find there. This is confirmed by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In its recent report on the company, it stated: "The general impres-

sion... is that passengers find the experience of passing through the three airports more enjoyable than was previously the case."

Mr Conran, who uses his well known name to get excessive coverage for his views on this matter, should simply accept that the retail facilities at our airports are (1) popular, (2) essential to the company's ability to fund vital airport infrastructure, and (3) the envy of most of the rest of the world's airports, which is why increasingly they are coming to BAA to discuss our management of this part of the business.

Yours faithfully,
DES WILSON,
BAA plc,
130 Wilton Road,
London, SW1.

Try not to do water industry a disservice

From the Director,
Water Services Association
Sir, Christine Buckley's article (Water, water every-where, but never a drop in price, October 16) simply does not present a balanced view of the water industry.

Here are just five facts that she might have included to give a more accurate picture. Fact One: The price of water would already have come down in real terms had it not been for the massive investment needed to put right the neglect of decades.

Fact Two: Prices are already rising less fast than in the 1980s even though investment has doubled.

Fact Three: Over £17 billion has been invested by the water industry over the last six years.

Fact Four: The quality of drinking water has never been higher, and bathing waters and rivers are cleaner than ever.

Fact Five: Since last summer the industry has made significant progress in driving down leakage. The companies most affected by the drought have saved enough water to meet the needs of two million people.

By all means criticise where criticism is due, but your readers expect balanced reporting — not propaganda.
Yours faithfully,
JANET LANGDON,
The Water Services Association of England and Wales,
1 Queen Anne's Gate,
SW1.

Acceptance of flotation far from mutual

From Sir Jeremy H. Beecham

Sir, I chose to take out pension policies and life insurance with the Norwich Union partly because it was a mutual office.

I am far from persuaded that the proposed flotation will be in the long-term interests of policyholders, as opposed to the short-term interests of executives and advisers.

I might be more readily persuaded if the society's executives adopted a self-denying ordinance which ex-

cluded access to executive share options schemes and limited their future salaries and bonuses by reference to the return to policyholders (as opposed to shareholders). Will they do so?

Yours faithfully,
SIR JEREMY H. BEECHAM
7 Collingwood Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

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30 October 1996

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of the latest Fortune Global 500 table revealed that Fortis had risen to 135th place.

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gives our operating companies around the world the freedom to serve the market in their own way. And at the same time draws maximum advantage from their combined strengths. Allowing them to benefit from each other's expertise and experience. And giving them the financial resources to invest properly in their organizational structures, the latest information technology, and training for staff members.

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TELEVISION

'It won't matter in your lifetime or mine': the BBC celebrates 60 years in front of the camera



RISING STAR

Done for effect: Paul Kieve, the young king of theatrical illusion, prepares to give Scrooge its ghosts

THE TIMES ARTS



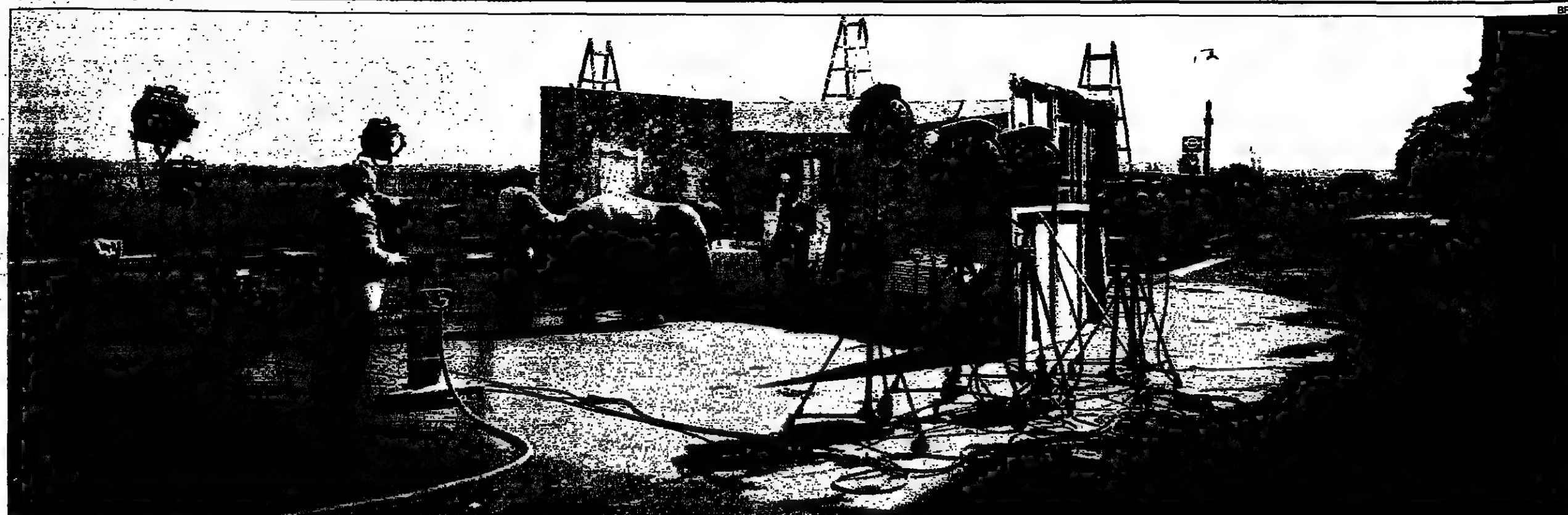
FESTIVAL

Sir Anthony Caro leads the British contribution to Thessaloniki's year as Europe's 'cultural capital'



OFFER

Special prices for a cabaret based on the life of Jacques Brel: see our Theatre Club panel



Early days: Comet the baby elephant being filmed on the terrace at Alexandra Palace for the Picture Page programme in February 1939. Picture Page began on the opening day in 1936 and ran twice a week until the outbreak of war

The world's first regular public "high definition" television service was inaugurated on November 2, 1936. In his book *Television Jubilee*, which celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary back in 1961, Gordon Ross nicely dubbed it "the official birthday of BBC Television", for there was plenty of "prenatal" activity.

The great prophet of the medium, John Logie Baird, had demonstrated a prototype transmitter 11 years earlier. In 1928 Baird reported his first trials in colour television, and in 1931 he conveyed the climax of the Derby by a form of outside broadcast camera to a London cinema.

But Baird's system was mechanical rather than electronic and rivals took to the field to explore other possibilities. While transmission with pictorial illustration was clearly of interest to the sole broadcaster of wireless to the nation, the BBC, if only in terms of a perceived threat, BBC contact with Baird was at an unofficial level. In his autobiography, *Sermons, Soap and Television* (published in 1988, long after his death), Baird reveals that the BBC's chief research engineer, a Mr. Kieve, was exchanging trans-

missions down the telephone line with Baird's laboratory in Upper St Martin's Lane as early as 1928. But Kieve was found out and the trials were abruptly terminated.

Television was contemplated with no official enthusiasm at the BBC, and nobody was more reluctant than the Corporation's founder and first Director-General, John Reith. As his biographer Ian McIntyre confirms, Reith made little reference to television in his famous diaries either before or after its establishment. Later in life, Reith thought of television as "a social menace of the first magnitude".

Few took the sanguine view of Grace Wyndham Goldie, who in 1936 was the broadcasting critic of the BBC-owned magazine, *The Listener*. She was permitted to attend the demonstrations of transmission from the BBC's Alexandra Palace studios to the Radiolympia exhibition in August 1936, but not to write about them. "Television won't matter in your lifetime or

As BBC Television marks its 60th birthday, W. Stephen Gilbert recalls the race to transmit pictures before war called a halt

mine," her editor, R.S. Lambert, solemnly declared.

Goldie differed and went on to enjoy a pivotal career in television. In her autobiography of 1977, *Facing the Nation*, she describes the BBC mandarins at Broadcasting House who were "culpably, unimaginatively and selfishly blind to the potentialities of television".

Most people did think of it, in a phrase of the time, as an expensive fad in the pan. Nevertheless, Ramsay MacDonald's National Government thought the medium of sufficient merit to set up in 1934 a committee "to examine how it might be administered". Under the far-sighted chairmanship of Lord Selsdon, the committee recommended that a national service should be created and that the BBC should administer it. By this decision, British television was at once protected against two forces which would limit and distort the medium elsewhere in the world: government interference and commercial interests.

Selsdon also decreed that two distinct television systems should be operated alternately until one was seen to prevail. Hence two studios were set up at Alexandra Palace, one for Baird's film-scanning device and the other for the Emitron iconoscope developed by EMI and Marconi. The opening ceremony was transmitted twice by each rival in succession, the sole variation being that a representative of the bidder spoke for his particular system.

Before the month was out, most of the Baird Company's equipment was lost in the fire that destroyed the Crystal Palace. Even without this calamity, however, it was clear to all disinterested parties that the EMI-Marconi system would be taken up.

Programmes were broadcast from Alexandra Palace to the small band of viewers — "lookers", they were called — for 34 months until the service was closed down for the duration of the Second World War, a plug-pulling so unceremonious that a Mickey Mouse cartoon was not even allowed to conclude.

But in that short period, formats were evolved which would hold good for most of television's first 60 years. In those prewar months, 326 plays were mounted along with operas, ballets, fashion shows and programmes featuring cookery, gardening, animals, the arts and chat. Major sports events were covered. Cecil Madden's *Picture Page* — "showing people of interest" — began on the opening day and ran twice a week for the duration. In the process inventing the magazine programme.

Cecil Lewis, one of the five BBC founders in 1922, was paid £800 a year to be television's director of outside broadcasts. From his retirement home on Corfu, Lewis (now almost 99) recalls making the first programme about sheep-dog trials (*Champion Sheep Dogs*, November 24, 1936). "The cameras couldn't be moved then. We got four sheep, stuck them in the park outside the Palace and had cameras up in the windows. There were the chaps and dogs down in the park below and we just followed them round for a bit, as well as we could from that position. We produced anything and everything that we could get hold of. We improvised all the time. We had to put a prog-

ramme out every day, so we did." Lewis vividly recalls the "enormous spaces" of Alexandra Palace. "We worked in a large empty room which I suppose you'd call a studio. There was no proper gallery with windows to look through and nice people on the other side to tell you what to do. We just picked up the microphone and got on with it."

That room, the EMI-Marconi studio, still exists and so, more surprisingly, does the Baird, though neither is open to the public. Dilapidation is generally the order of the day at the sprawling Palace which, only a month ago, was finally accorded a Grade II listing. Roger Driscoll, who chairs the Alexandra Palace Television Trust, believes the move will encourage developers to restore the studios and create a living museum on the site.

In a year when Shakespeare's Globe has been rebuilt on the South Bank, it seems little enough to ask that the cradle of television be restored and laid before the public. With its visionaries and its decriers, its innovators and its martyrs, the haphazard beginnings of television tell a very British story. It deserves a permanent, interactive memorial.

Michael Church on the squabbling in Thessaloniki, next year's European Cultural Capital

You don't have to walk more than 50 paces anywhere in Thessaloniki to realise something is afoot. Roman arches are swathed in wrappings, mosques nestle in scaffolding, Byzantine churches suddenly look new.

In the neo-Byzantine cathedral-an-army of artists is painting frescoes on hitherto plain walls, in acrylic colours and acres of gold leaf, but in an antique style: a shining-eyed, exultant explains that these will be the equal of the celebrated frescoes of Mount Athos — no, they will be better.

Wander into an exquisitely restored Art Nouveau mansion in the city's former Jewish quarter, and you get a trade about these frescoes from an architect, so angry he can hardly speak. He blames the

Greeks bearing controversial gifts

bishop who has hired the painters, and the nationalist, back-to-basics Christianity he represents.

Next year Thessaloniki is taking its turn as Cultural Capital of Europe, and this aesthetic spat is just one of many conflicts which the city's temporary enthronement has brought to a head.

The Art Nouveau mansion is the headquarters of the Cultural Capital project. Originally owned by a Turk, then

commandered by the Nazis, then housing Nato, and thereafter the Red Cross, it reflects the vicissitudes through which the city itself has passed.

The Greek Government is left of centre, while Thessaloniki — Athens's northern "co-capital" — is staunchly rightist. Cultural Capital funds are channelled via Adrians, and between Athens and Thessaloniki there is a long history of rivalry. What's more, the local committee

overseeing next year's jamboree is split along similar political lines. As a result, what should have been a concerted cultural push by a city seizing its chance is riven by factionalism.

When I visited the project two years ago it was headed by a formidable Eurocrat named Anne Haritou, who had previously been the right-hand woman of Melina Mercouri (begetter of the Cultural Capital concept). Now Haritou and her entire team are gone, and

card: for the first time ever, the religious treasures of Mount Athos will go on public display. This means that the half of the human race forbidden entrance to the monks' all-male stronghold will finally get a sight of them too.

The architect enraged by those frescoes is Professor Lois Papadopoulos, a laid-back, bear-like man who takes me on a tour of the works-in-progress. First we pause beside a work stopped in its tracks. The Rotunda was originally a mausoleum, then it became a church, then a mosque, and then a church cum concert venue. Now in perilous disrepair, it is handed to everyone except parishioners on Sunday. Two months ago Papadopoulos and his friends staged a concert in it, which was violently disrupted

by protesters — led by the clergy — while police looked on.

Then we stop at a series of edifices: a gorgeous mosque built for Jewish converts to Islam which is now an art gallery; a textile factory destined to become the city's museum of modern art; a monastery being transformed into a cultural centre; a Turkish bath which is now a theatre; a new museum area in the port. The Roman forum, whose streets and arcades are in strikingly good repair, will be turned next year into an "open site".

On the ramparts overlooking the town is the biggest conundrum of all: the "prison", where Turks built over what Christians had added to the original Roman foundations. This was where political prisoners languished under the Nazis, and more recently under the Colonels.

Proposals to expose the Byzantine building by stripping out the prison were quashed by those who argued its historical importance. Poems and novels were written in there; it is part of Greece's folklore. Now a computer simulation will reflect its changing guises while it is gradually made ready as a penal museum, and its exercise yard is reborn as a theatre. Finally, everything becomes culture.

GREAT BRITISH HOPE

Rising stars in the arts firmament

PAUL KIEVE

Name: Paul Kieve
Age: 29
Profession: Illusionist and theatre effects designer.

Coming up: Kieve is designing the ghost effects for *Scrooge* which previews at the Dominion from November 6.

So how do you make ghosts appear on stage? "As a member of the Inner Magic Circle I am rather reluctant to reveal my secrets."

Oh go on. Please: "I won't say a word. I even get casts who work with the illusions to sign secrecy contracts. But, as a small clue, I get most of my techniques from Victorian works on illusion."

How successful is he? Very. Over the past five years Kieve has become the theatre's most sought-after effects



man. He makes 20 witches turn into mice in the finale of *Road Dahl's The Witches* (currently on tour), and he is renowned for his work on Stratford East's production of *The Invisible Man*, which featured 50 illusions, and for English National Ballet's *Al-*

ice in *Wonderland*. He has also worked with David Copperfield.

Does new technology help? "I hardly use it, although I'm not afraid to. My work tends to be based on 100-year-old techniques."

How long does it take to create an illusion? "The finale of *The Witches* took several months to create, whereas working out how to make coins disappear in a production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* took a two-hour discussion with the director and Tom Stoppard."

The future: "I've got a few ideas for some shows that I would like to see happen." Such as? "I don't want to say in case anybody else does them." Typical.

GUY WALTERS

It's cabaret time

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

doubtless be aching to take advantage of these special offers:

Cabaret World at the Rheingold Club, Safford Place, 361 Oxford Street, W1. Nov 5-16.

● **ANTHONY CABLE** sings Jacques Brel, and tells the life of the singer-poet. The price of £20 includes a three-course meal with a glass of wine from 7pm, the show at 8.30pm and dancing until 3am. Tel 0171-629 5343

Underneath the Archies, Great Suffolk Street, SE1. Fri and Sat throughout Nov Dec 7, 14, 21.

● **THE Abodabs** Company presents the *All Time Comedy Music Hall* of comedy, songs and, of course, audience participation. The restaurant serves modern European cuisine from 7pm, followed by the show. The cost is £20. Tel 0171-928 3493

Covent Garden WCI. Fri and Sat until April 30. ● **SEE The Phantom of the Opera**, then enjoy a two-course

OVER the past year, the idea of eating, drinking and being entertained, all in the same place, has become one of the ways for Londoners to enjoy themselves. As is their wont, Theatre Club members have been in the vanguard of this cabaret theatre revival, and will

dinner and cabaret for only £35. Best seats to all top West End shows can be added at box office prices. Tel 0800 335588

Certain Call at Simpson's Strand, WC2. Nov 16, 23, Dec 6, 13, 14, 20, 21. ● **SEE Anthony Newley** in the revival of *Scrooge*, then enjoy a three-course meal with wine and cabaret, all for £69. Alternatively, combine the cabaret with the show of your choice for £69 to £79. Tel 01442 879000

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CANTERBURY. Marlowe Theatre, Nov 19-20. Two £6 to £13 tickets for the price of one for *Liz Lochhead's* translation of *Molière's Tartuffe*. Tel 01783 62181

BATH. Theatre Royal, Nov 4-6. Two £14.50 or £17.50 tickets for the price of one to Patricia Routledge's one-woman show, *Beatrice*. Tel 01225 448844

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LONDON. The Place, Nov 12-16. Save 25 per cent on tickets (normally £15 to £25.50) for the musical, *The Master and Margarita*. Tel 0171-387 0031

PERTH. Perth Theatre, Nov 4-7. Two £12 tickets for the price of one for *Liz Lochhead's* translation of *Molière's Tartuffe*. Tel 01783 62181

LEEDS. West Yorkshire Playhouse, Nov 11. Save £2.50 on tickets (normally £10 to £12.50) for Terrence McNally's poignant comedy, *A Perfect Genset*. Tel 0113-244 2111

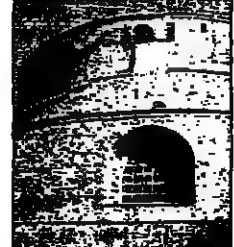
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THEATRE 1
As seedy Archie Rice, Michael Pennington scores a hit in Osborne's *The Entertainer*



THEATRE 2
... while in Hammersmith a new play explores tensions in a pious Scottish community

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 3
The exotic and the continental mingle with a homegrown realism at the Dublin Festival



TOMORROW
Robert De Niro's latest movie, and all the other big films, reviewed by Geoff Brown

THEATRE: A classic John Osborne play echoes into the 1990s; plus new work in London and at the Dublin Festival

The old joker still the beast

An ornate proscenium arch has been installed at the Hampstead Theatre, along with a lot of red plush and two cut-out ladies whose naked breasts light up and flash during the performance. This tawdry glamour is the spiritual home of Archie Rice, music-hall artiste, womaniser and hush, portrayed with unerring skill by Michael Pennington in Stephen Rayne's production.

The Entertainer
Hampstead Theatre

When John Osborne's play was first produced at the Royal Court in 1957, Olivier took the part, marking the Establishment's first endorsement of the Angry Young Man. *The Entertainer* is [Osborne's] diagnosis of the sickness that is currently afflicting our slap-happy breed," wrote Kenneth Tynan at the time. The play, and subsequently the film, came to epitomise that time of disillusionment and cynicism, but it is surprising to see how that interpretation fits our own times.

In seedy digs in a coastal resort where the Rice family is currently installed, Archie's daughter Jean (Siri O'Neal) arrives unexpectedly to find her best-loved grandfather Billy (Julian Curry) setting down with a bottle of Bass and the evening paper. Archie is performing in his latest money-spinning venture, a nude show at the Grand, and his wife, Jean's stepmother Phoebe, is out at the pictures.

The old man, a "real pro" in his day, abhors the kind of work his son is reduced to doing. "They don't want real people any more," he complains. "You had to be a personality in those days." But Billy's time is past, and nobody listens to him. We see Archie's act for ourselves, in all its debasement. Despite his blue jokes, mock patriotic songs and a bit of tap dancing thrown in, Archie is just a minor irritation for an audience which has come to see the nudes. He knows it, which is worse, but he does not care as long as they pay.

Phoebe has stuck by him all these



Family matters: Michael Pennington as Archie Rice and Siri O'Neal as his daughter Jean in Stephen Rayne's production of *The Entertainer*

years and borne him sons, one of whom is working with Archie while the other is fighting in Suez. Jane Wood is a revelation as Phoebe, a woman so ditz she can barely remain in her seat for more than a few moments and cannot even remember the name of the film she has seen that evening. But her extreme good heartedness is soured by gin into equally vehement fights. It is perhaps the only outlet for the

humiliation that she has suffered at the hands of Archie, though mostly she still hides behind the phony good cheer.

In form though not in content the play itself seems oddly dated now. The plot is mired in the characters' own stasis, relying on the intervention of telegrams, letters, the arrival of a policeman at the door to drive itself forward.

The sexual politics can be observed

with interest as coming from another era, but the underwriting of Jean's part leaves a vacuum in the story which should have been filled, at least temporarily, with idealism and hope. Rayne's excellent production has only one lamentable lapse of judgment, which is to put a real nude on stage to no dramatic effect whatever. Except perhaps to show how much more our culture is now in the grip of commercialism.

Monday's press-night performance was an historic occasion in a melancholy way because of the absence of the respected theatre critic Jack Tinker, who died that day. When his death was announced at the end of the performance, it was greeted with shock and dismay which was as genuine from the stage as it was from the auditorium.

CLARE BAYLEY

Off the wall, on the boards

This year, Project Arts Centre firmly invaded the territory on which the official Dublin Theatre Festival chose not to tread in picking productions for its mini festival of experimental work.

The centrepiece of this festival within a festival, Crisus's *SAPA*, brought to mind just what a fascinating avant-

garde performance experience *It's A Knockout* used to be. The young company

specialises in taking over a venue (in this case Dublin's now disused Iveagh Market) and turning it into a nasty, diesel-powered world.

A thundering waterclock which periodically doused the Iveagh floor; a vicious, spiky tricycle; a buzzing fur-covered chainsaw; an immense rotating movie screen-plus-fair-ground ride and a 30ft wheelbarrow all saw action on the *SAPA* battlefield. Making arresting props, however, requires different skills from producing powerful theatre.

While Crisus certainly possesses the former competence, other elements, such as narrative, were left awkward and underdeveloped.

Meanwhile, Pan Pan Theatre Company's *Taylor's Requiem* dipped into dance, mime and performance art to pull out an extraordinary work, dotted with moments of rich, theatrical image-making.

The main festival programme climaxed in impressive style with three performances of *Silvius Purcarele's Les Danaïdes*, but 1996 was still a patchy year for homegrown productions, a fact boldly emphasised by the presentation of the festival's top award for an Irish production to a suburban farce, *Stella By Starlight*, by Bernard Farrell.

IRISH THEATRE

But if Farrell still, inexplicably, finds infinite jest in the Dublin middle classes, new Irish productions at the festival were not always so anodyne in their choice of subject matter. Among the topics tackled were the social cost of Dublin's ever-expanding girth, the 1798 rising of the United Irishmen and the loves, pains and artistic struggles of Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

Last year's festival presentation from the Passion Machine was *Buddieia*, a boisterous piece which

crammed 29 actors on to the small stage at Project Arts Centre and climaxed in a demolition of the set. The action in *Kitchensink*, this year's offering from the company, takes place in a suburban housing estate under construction and over many years. Four actors share all the roles, quick-changing their way from toy gun-toting kids on the run, to intrepid old folks, furiously puffing on their terminal cigarettes.

Mercier's strength as a writer is an ability to be straightforward about his gloomy view of consumer-driven social decline without crumbling into didacticism. Nevertheless, *Kitchensink* misses the energy and tension that *Buddieia's* crowded stage offered.

Rough Magic provided a slow ride through the history of Irish drama with Stewart Parker's *Northern Star*. The story of yet another doomed Irish rebel hero — Henry Joy McCracken, a Protestant with a dream of an Ireland as a shareholders' democracy — the production stepped from lime-lit melodrama through a peasant lyrical style and on to some moments of starkly-lit Beckettian theatre.

LUKE CLANCY

Taking partners for the last warts

WITH an acting area not much larger than an average kitchen, the Bush Theatre has inspired designers to come up with ingenious ways of suggesting that the audience is in a forest glade, overlooking an archery field or, incredibly, beside a marshalling yard where (all done by mirrors) rail track vanishes into the distance.

Robin Don designed that particular marvel, and the proportions of the Bush's temporary home at the Lyric Studio ground area and height of an average house — must have seemed uncommonly generous.

For David Ashton's new play, set beside the sea in some bleakly religious Scottish town, Don provides the faded interior of a dance hall with a glimpse of the promenade beyond, and hangs above it one of his skyscapes of driving rain clouds. The effect is appropriately confining for a play concerned with resistance to the oppressions and hypocrisies of the godfearing.

Fifteen or so years before the

Barred Treasure
Lyric Studio, W6

play opens, Frank McCaig set fire to the church, but

cannot say why; returned to the community from hospital he defiantly re-opens his dance hall, the place condemned from the pulpit by the local minister. By the end of the play the townsfolk have set fire to the hall, but Frank has remembered the blank two hours of his life.

In retrospect the development and denouement seem too theatrically neat, but Ashton's writing has always pulsed with a vitality that can shove doubts aside when we watch his characters in battle. The play pits the grittily determined Frank (Alexander Morton) against his old rival and unctious traitor, the Rev Robert Sneddon (Jimmy Yuill).

In its way, *Barred Treasure* is as tight as middle-period Ibsen, even to the scene of self-discovery through crisis. Robin Lefevre's production steadily tightens the tension, allows it to snap, then builds it again, and the company of five passionately inhabit their



Alexander Morton and Jimmy Yuill come to blows in David Ashton's Ibsen-esque *Barred Treasure*

roles. Colette O'Neill's Sadie, mocked as a witch for her weird ways, has a voice like a piercing sigh and can fix our attention upon her simply by sitting motionless. Jennifer Black plays Linda, loved by one man, carried as a trophy by the other, and briefly sings

Stormy Weather, leitmotiv of the play, in a rich, irresistibly danceable voice. As her valiant son, the young actor Anthony J. O'Donnell confirms the promise he showed recently in *The Winter Guest*.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Veteran trombonist for all seasons

IF EVER there was a jazz musician with impeccable credentials, it is Connecticut-born trombonist Roswell Rudd. In the 1960s alone, he played with the highly influential pianist Herbie Nichols, saxophonists Steve Lacy and Archie Shepp, and in the New York Art Quartet featuring John Tchicai, and the Primordial

Quartet with Lee Konitz. On this occasion, he was sharing front-line duties with a fellow Carla Bley band alumnus, British saxophonist and saxello player Elton Dean. Dean is celebrated these days chiefly for his freely improvised playing, and the rest of the band — pianist Alex Maguire, bassist Marcio Mattos and drummer Mark Sanders — are also among this country's most skilful operators in that area. It was therefore no surprise that the

quintet devoted both of their hour-long sets to seamless collective improvisations in which an extraordinary range of moods was conveyed not only by the rhythmic and dynamic variety of the spontaneously created music but — more importantly — by the timbres and textures achieved by Rudd and Dean.

The trombone is often said to be the instrument whose sound is closest to the human voice and Rudd has always been unequalled in his ability to "speak" through it. He ran through the whole panoply of sounds, from low rasps and growls through affecting mewls and whimpers to uninhibited shouts and roars, shadowed every step of the way by Maguire, Mattos and Sanders.

Dean, too, conjured an intensely human sound from his horns, his famously astringent

tone, particularly on his trademark saxello, providing the perfect complement to Rudd's full-bodied eloquence. When a conventional tune was eventually played, it was entirely fitting that it should have been

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CHRIS PARKER

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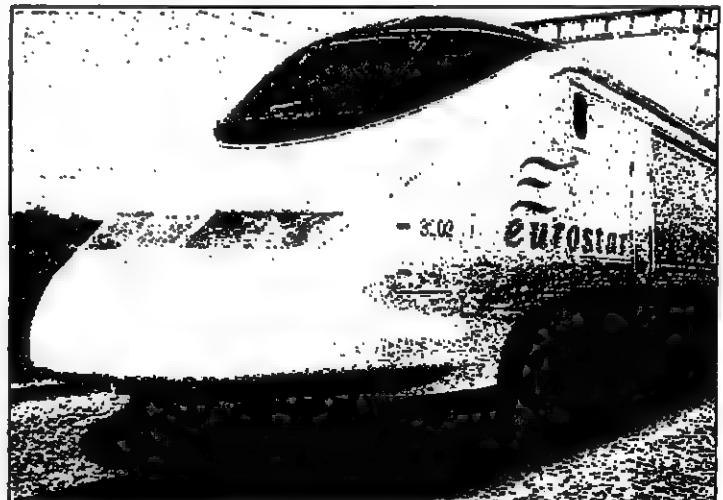
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We are looking for an experienced secretary with shorthand, first class organisational skills, good typing speeds (70 wpm) and a friendly manner to set up meetings and deal with correspondence and the daily routine of the Chairman's office.

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Please send CV to Mr. John Dalby, Chairman, Davies Laing & Dick Ltd, 10 Penbridge Square, London, W2 4ED.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

TO THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of a substantial group of companies requires an Executive Secretary to join a small Head Office Team based in Mayfair.

The suitable applicant will have previous experience at Board Level and will have a committed and flexible approach to working hours. Duties include maintaining a busy diary, travel arrangements and ensuring the smooth running of the office.

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Applications in writing to: Ref: EUSD

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If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please contact Helen Thomas, HR Manager at the address below for an application form in the first instance.

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Private Rental Group operates franchises for several well known high street names out of Russia and the former CS in Chelsea house looking for a competent, well motivated office manager to join the team.

You should have excellent shorthand and typing skills be computer literate, used to working under your own supervision and under pressure, preferably with previous Russian law not essential. This position is one for the future. You should have a flexible approach to work and willingness to handle whatever is put your way.

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Bright secretary sought by small International Medical Reproduction company based in SW18. Must have accurate secretarial skills, a fair for administration and lots of common sense.

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Please apply in writing enclosing a CV to: The Planning Director, Trevor Phipps & Sons, 75a Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6BP.

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RACING: FINE START TO SEASON ADVERTISES TRAINER'S RESILIENCE

Bailey continues revival with Cheltenham double

By Alan Lee

THERE have been moments in the past few months when Kim Bailey has wondered if things could possibly get worse. His training career and public distaste in such a depressing cocktail that the whisperers of the racing world compared with the gossip columnists to speculate bleakly on his future.

But yesterday, on the Cheltenham course where his wild dreams were fulfilled only 18 months ago, Bailey's capacity to conquer adversity was advertised again. While the trainer spent the day seeking fresh blood at the Newmarket sales, his defiantly impressive start to the National Hunt season was maintained by two more winners.

Bailey, who last season slipped from third to seventh in the trainers' table, lies second to Martin Pipe this term and the first-race victory

of Herbert Lodge, an exciting novice who has required a vast investment of patience during two years off with pelvic and sinus problems, gave fresh cause for optimism.

Herbert Lodge, having only his second run over hurdles, toyed with modest opposition after his market rival, Marching Marquis, had been

Next: MICHAEL VENTURE
(3.40 Yarmouth)
Next best: Fine Times
(2.30 Yarmouth)

brought down at the first flight. A relieved assistant trainer, Alex Hales, said: "Kim has been talking about this one for weeks. He has had a lot of problems but we think highly of him and hope he'll be back here in March for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle."

Two seasons ago, Bailey trained the winners of both the

Champion Hurdle and Gold Cup at the Cheltenham Festival. Last March he ended the meeting without a winner and, soon afterwards, split unhappily with his stable jockey, Norman Williamson. His head lad also left and conditional jockey, Timmy Murphy, recently departed. Meanwhile, Bailey's marital problems brought unwelcome publicity and, last week, his father died.

It has been a precarious platform on which to launch a new season but Bailey has kept his balance and his nerve. His owners have been unfathomably loyal and the appointment of Conor O'Dwyer as No 1 jockey has so far been a smooth success. Yesterday's double, completed by Hunters Rock, improved O'Dwyer's record to nine winners from 17 rides for his new stable.

O'Dwyer, 30, is a consummate stylist and, although still based in Ireland, he has demonstrated his commitment to Bailey by applying for

a British jockey's licence. "It makes a lot of sense," he said. "I can use my Irish licence here but it means I have to show my whip, helmet and body protector every time I ride."

The arrangement with Mr Bailey is working very well, because there are six-day entries in Ireland. I can work out my schedule pretty easily, week by week. I've a lot of good horses to ride now and Mr Bailey takes priority — apart, of course, from Imperial Call.

The Gold Cup triumph of O'Dwyer's talent in this country and planted his name in Bailey's mind. The horse was due to make his comeback at Clonmel tomorrow week but O'Dwyer reported: "I don't think he'll run. He missed four or five days' work after an overreach and there is no point in rushing him."

Obituary, page 21



Herbert Lodge becomes the first of two winners for Bailey and O'Dwyer at Cheltenham yesterday

THUNDER
1.20 Jock 3.05 Happy Valentine
1.55 Miss Universal 3.40 MICHAEL VENTURE (nap)
2.30 Sarabi 4.10 Comanche Companion

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
3.40 MICHAEL VENTURE

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.55 Florid, 3.05 Damewy, 3.40 MICHAEL VENTURE (nap).

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETINGS

1.20 NEWPORT CLAIMING STAKES (22,833; 1m 6f 17y) (11 runners)

101 (8) 000000 WELL ARRANGED 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
102 (9) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
103 (10) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
104 (11) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
105 (12) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
106 (13) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
107 (14) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
108 (15) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
109 (16) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
110 (17) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
111 (18) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

FORM FOCUS

1.55 CORTON CONDITIONS STAKES (22,822; 1m 2f 21y) (7 runners)

201 (1) 441833 FLORED 13 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
202 (2) 441833 FLORED 13 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
203 (3) 441833 FLORED 13 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
204 (4) 441833 FLORED 13 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
205 (5) 441833 FLORED 13 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
206 (6) 441833 FLORED 13 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
207 (7) 441833 FLORED 13 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

FORM FOCUS

2.30 LOUND NURSERY HANDICAP (22,822; 1m 2f 21y) (11 runners)

301 (1) 01010 STYBAN 25 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
302 (2) 01010 STYBAN 25 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
303 (3) 01010 STYBAN 25 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
304 (4) 01010 STYBAN 25 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
305 (5) 01010 STYBAN 25 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
306 (6) 01010 STYBAN 25 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
307 (7) 01010 STYBAN 25 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

FORM FOCUS

2.50 JEWSON NOVICES CHASE (23,780; 3m 1f) (6 runners)

401 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
402 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
403 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
404 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
405 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
406 (6) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

Top miler retired

MARK OF ESTEEM, one of the best milers of recent years, was retired yesterday. He will stand at the Dalham Hall Stud in Newmarket next season. His owners, Godolphin, made the decision after the 2,000 Guineas winner's disappointing run in the Breeders' Cup Mile on Saturday.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Leicester
1.00 (5) 21910 1. Triple Hay (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1.20 (6) 21910 1. Triple Hay (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1.40 (7) 21910 1. Triple Hay (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1.60 (8) 21910 1. Triple Hay (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1.80 (9) 21910 1. Triple Hay (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
2.00 (10) 21910 1. Triple Hay (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
2.20 (11) 21910 1. Triple Hay (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
2.40 (12) 21910 1. Triple Hay (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
2.60 (13) 21910 1. Triple Hay (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
2.80 (14) 21910 1. Triple Hay (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
3.00 (15) 21910 1. Triple Hay (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

FORM FOCUS

3.40 RANWORTH MAIDEN STAKES (22,822; 1m 2f 21y) (13 runners)

501 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
502 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
503 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
504 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
505 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
506 (6) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
507 (7) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

FORM FOCUS

4.10 CALIFORNIA HANDICAP (23,725; 7f 3y) (20 runners)

601 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
602 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
603 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
604 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
605 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
606 (6) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
607 (7) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

FORM FOCUS

4.40 LLOYD BOWMAN NOVICES CHASE (23,701; 2m) (4 runners)

701 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
702 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
703 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
704 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINER	W	R	Pl	W	R	Pl
M. Dwyer	1	0	0	0	0	0
J. Wetherby	1	0	0	0	0	0
M. Dwyer	1	0	0	0	0	0
J. Wetherby	1	0	0	0	0	0
M. Dwyer	1	0	0	0	0	0
J. Wetherby	1	0	0	0	0	0

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDER
1.30 Steeple, 2.05 Wildns, 2.40 Kalesad, 3.15 Manor Mile, 3.50 Durrington, 4.20 Copper Col.

GOING: GOOD

1.30 FONTWELL PARK ANNUAL MEMBERS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (22,010; 2m 2f 11y) (11 runners)

1 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
2 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
3 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
4 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
5 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
6 (6) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
7 (7) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

2.40 STREBEL BOILERS AND RADIATORS HANDICAP HURDLE SERIES FINAL (22,775; 2m 6f 11y) (9 runners)

801 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
802 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
803 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
804 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
805 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
806 (6) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
807 (7) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

CHELTEHAM

THUNDER
1.10 Kalesad, 1.40 Calibate, 2.15 Courbati, 2.50 Morny-Shap, 3.20 Cartton Venture, 4.00 Wise Approach, 4.30 Tidal Force.

GOING: GOOD

1.10 CHELTEHAM SPONSORSHIP CLUB NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (22,787; 2m 11y) (6 runners)

901 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
902 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
903 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
904 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
905 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
906 (6) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

1.40 LLOYD BOWMAN NOVICES CHASE (23,701; 2m) (4 runners)

1001 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1002 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1003 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1004 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

2.15 THE EMERALD HANDICAP HURDLE (24,834; 2m 5f) (5 runners)

1101 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1102 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1103 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1104 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1105 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINER	W	R	Pl	W	R	Pl
M. Dwyer	1	0	0	0	0	0
J. Wetherby	1	0	0	0	0	0
M. Dwyer	1	0	0	0	0	0
J. Wetherby	1	0	0	0	0	0
M. Dwyer	1	0	0	0	0	0
J. Wetherby	1	0	0	0	0	0

3.15 ACTION RESEARCH FOR THE CRIPPLED CHILD NOVICES CHASE

(22,888; 3m 2f 11y) (8 runners)

1201 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1202 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1203 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1204 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1205 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1206 (6) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1207 (7) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

3.50 FORD AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE

(22,786; 2m 5f) (7 runners)

1301 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1302 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1303 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1304 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1305 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1306 (6) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1307 (7) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

4.20 MIDDLETON MAIDEN HURDLE

(22,595; 1m 6f 11y) (15 runners)

1401 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1402 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1403 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1404 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1405 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1406 (6) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1407 (7) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M. Dwyer, 5 winners from 16 runners, 31.3%; J. Wetherby, 11 from 28, 39.3%; B. Bailey, 9 from 20, 45.0%; M. Dwyer, 3 from 11, 27.3%; P. Hobbs, 2 from 4, 50.0%; R. Buxton, 1 from 1, 100.0%.

3.25 NEVILLE RUSSELL NOVICES HURDLE

(22,866; 2m 5f) (5 runners)

1501 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1502 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1503 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1504 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1505 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

4.00 STUDD CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE

(24,395; 2m 4f 11y) (5 runners)

1601 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1602 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1603 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1604 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1605 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

4.30 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (21,604; 2m 11y) (8 runners)

1701 (1) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1702 (2) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1703 (3) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1704 (4) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1705 (5) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1706 (6) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81
1707 (7) 000000 CRUISE 11 (D.F.S.) (M) 4-10-12 J. Wetherby 81

AMERICAN PATSY

Tonight on Miller Time, Patsy Kensit is tested to the limit by Johnny's lie detector.
It's the ultimate showbiz interview. Miller Time, 10.20, Channel 4, during American Gothic.

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON AND RICHARD HOBSON

Little is a known admirer of Stan Collymore, who is unsettled at Liverpool, still lives in Cannock in the West Midlands and supported Villa as a



Bosnich: gesture

They have met the club's board of directors, who will report to the annual meeting tomorrow night, when the shareholders are expected to

Derby County have released Paul Parker, the former England defender who has been on month-to-month terms since August.

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

The dispute involved the amount of money received by the PFA from the League's television revenue. Traditional-

The PFA was due to announce the result of its ballot on October 19, which could have led to Nationwide League players withdrawing their services if the television cameras were not turned off. However, after eleven-hour discussions last week, a compromise was struck. Though the PFA has not succeeded in its efforts to have the ten per cent restored, which would have given it £2.5 million, they have agreed to a £1.2 million package that more than doubles their previous share of the League's television income.

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

SQUAD: A Kelly (Sheffield United), S Given (Blackburn Rovers), D Irwin (Manchester United), P Babo (Liverpool), J Kenna (Blackburn Rovers), C Fleming (Middlesbrough), G Green (Birmingham City), I Harte (Leeds United), C Cunningham (Wimbledon), S Staunton (Aston Villa), A Townsend (Aston Villa), R Keane (Manchester United), A McLaughlin (Portsmouth), J McAteer (Liverpool), L O'Brien (Tranmere), K O'Neill (Norwich City), J Aldridge (Tranmere Rovers), A Casanova (Marseille), A Moore (Middlesbrough), D Kelly (Sunderland).

Salaam, the Chicago running back, makes a 13-yard gain in the first quarter of the victory over Minnesota.

BY ENR SPORTS STAFF

Brian Cox, the Chicago line backer, stripped Brad Johnson, the replacement quarterback, back for Minnesota, in the closing minutes and recovered the fumble himself to seal the win for the Bears. The result meant a third defeat in four games for the Vikings and record of 5-3, two games behind Green Bay Packers, who lead the NFC central division.

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

SWIMMING: OFF

Sparkes

senior chef d'équipe, is to appoint an international manager. With Mark Phillips, the obvious candidate, now resolved to stay with the United States team, Rowsell concedes that this position may be difficult to fill.

In what John Tulloch, the outgoing chairman, describes as "the biggest change in the management of our sport since its conception in this country nearly 50 years ago," the HTG will set up on its own as the British Horse Trials

"We will start with nothing but subscriptions, and how registration fees all come in early in the year, and Badminton, in May, should boost resources," he said. Traditionally, Badminton gives more than £100,000 from its profits to the sport.

BASKETBALL

England wait for Dunkley

ENGLAND (from): J. Amess (Parrishinos, Gr.), S. Bucknell (Irkis, Gr.), D. Dunkley (Umoges, Fr.), D. Hamman (Trie, Gr.), I. Whyte (Besancon, Fr.), N. Austin (K. Brown (both London Towers), R. Baker (Leopards), R. Huggins, I. McKinney, J. Swaine (all Sheffield Sharks), F. Scantebury (Capt. Thames Valley Tigers).

SWIMMING: OFFICIAL DISPELS WORRIES ABOUT NEW DIRECTOR'S CREDENTIALS

By CRAIG LORD

Jackman


Her arrival completes the new team under Deryk

He confirmed that the job specification for the director had changed since the departure of Paul Bush — who was also in his early thirties when

His efforts have never produced a national team member, senior nor junior; but Sparkes believes Peyrebrune's strengths lie beyond coaching. He is a graduate in the field of sports science, which Sparkes welcomed, given that, "by his own admission, Deryk is not a sports scientist".

SQUASH

Jackman, 23, the former world junior champion who has hovered near the top of the women's senior game for nearly five years without penetrating the control of New Zealand and Australian players, won the Weymüller memorial event at the Heights Casino Club in Brooklyn, against world-class opposition. In the semi-finals, she defeated the world No 1, Michelle Martin, for the second time in eight days.



Jackman: new edge

In the final of the men's Tournament of Champions at the Heights Casino, Jonathan Power, of Canada, beat Craig Rowland, of Australia, 15-4, 9-15, 15-10, 16-17, 15-9.

FINAL SCORE

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CORRECT SCORE

7/1 MAN. UTD.	1-0	13/2 DRAW	1-1
7/1 MAN. UTD.	2-0	25/1 DRAW	2-2
8/1 MAN. UTD.	3-1	14/1 FENERBACH	1-0
11/1 MAN. UTD.	4-0	28/1 FENERBACH	2-1

Other scores on request.

FIRST GOALSCORER	
9/2 CANTONA (M)	12/1 BOLIC (F)
11/2 SCHOLES (M)	14/1 TARIK (F)
10/1 GIGGS (M)	14/1 KEANE (M)
11/1 BECKHAM (M)	25/1 IRWIN (M)

Some odds do not count. Other figures on request.

Own goats do not count. Other players on request.

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William HILL

مکتبہ اسلامیہ

Grieving for the loss of sporting lives

Every death diminishes us, but this counts double with sporting deaths. The fearful lineaments of death seem still more terrible, still more unfair when set against the background of sport's merriment and frivolity.

Last week, Matthew Harding, Chelsea vice-chairman, died on his way home from a football match. The outflow of grief across the footballing nation was quite unprecedented for the death of a mere club director. Chelsea were at home to Tottenham Hotspur last weekend: not their greatest allies. Yet the minute's silence was full, complete, profound.

Harding's death diminished all English football. It seemed: not what is normally the case when a boardroom buffer pops his clogs. Mocking a rival's misfortunes is part of football's less edifying tradition, plane-crash taunts follow Manchester United everywhere. But, throughout English football, they kept the silence for Harding.

As soccer comes out of its brief period of mourning, so rugby union enters one. On Sunday, Ian Tucker died after playing for Oxford University.

Against Saracens the previous day. He was injured while making a tackle, and collapsed after emerging from the subsequent maul. Police say they are satisfied that no criminal offence took place. It was just sport.

Harding was, in his way, the ultimate figure of fantasy football. There comes a point when football people no longer fantasise about playing for England or Chelsea. At a certain age, imagining yourself as a club director becomes a trifle absurd.

'The silence was complete and profound'

The fantasy figure for the older man is the manager, and latterly, the chairman: fantasies of power rather than beauty. Harding's gift to his game was to add a new gloss to the fantasy. Young by beard and standards, at 42, he was a putable, rather than clubbable, man in a Chelsea shirt rather than a suit, and quite ludicrously rich.

Greater football fans, of every hue, saw Harding and thought: "That's what I'd be like, if I were a multimillionaire. I'd chuck huge sums at my beloved club, I'd cock snooks at everyone in sight, I'd still have plenty of pints and I'd shout myself daft every Saturday just as I

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

do now. Success wouldn't change me, it would make me even more like myself.

Harding's death came after a match, which makes it all far more poignant than if the helicopter had gone down after some business meeting. Death and sport do not sit well together. Real death has no place among the mock-deaths and cod tragedies of the sporting world.

The same paradox surrounds the death of Tucker. If he had died in a

car crash it would have been sad, but it would not have touched strangers. Young men die in car crashes by the nature of things, the statistics tell us this story again and again.

It is always the waste of a life: but it always seems still more of a waste when a young person dies in pursuit of sport. It seems doubly awful, doubly dreadful: something deep in ourselves cries out that, above all else, it is not fair.

And yet sport always involves the deliberate seeking of danger. Even watching it, you put yourself in danger of disappointment, of the teasing and chaffing of others. I recently reported a story about a Brazilian fan who, guided by the incessant teasing of his lifelong friend after a defeat, shot him dead.

Actually playing sport involves greater psychological, spiritual and physical risks. This seeking of danger is seen as a strictly male trait, but it is not. Everyone who has anything to do with horses knows that. And sport kills women as well as men: a couple of years ago, I had the grim task of writing about a teenage girl who died

after a fall in three-day eventing. Rugby union is a sport of physical confrontation and injuries are inevitable for all players at any level. The game is not supposed to be safe. People wouldn't play it if it was safe.

New legislation and better law enforcement — the laws of both the land and the game — have made the game more sensible, more responsible. Dangerous games must always be monitored closely. We have grown out of the ethic of callousness, the notion that it's a man's game and there is always a natural culling.

For, as sport has become an ever more public concern, so the sheer inappropriateness of sporting deaths hits us ever harder. Sport, you see, is not about death. It is about life. Sport is the most life-affirming aspect of the national life: it cheers and celebrates life and youth, and does so by means of excitement, risk, confrontation.

Sport is often compared with war, but it is quite the opposite. War is about death, waste, disaster. Sport is a luxury that can only come as the product of peace. Sport is life. Death, in such a context, seems not only inappropriate but incomprehensible.

'Sport is not about death it is about life'

Celebrations on the road to Rio

James Capstick has Georgia on his mind as he takes stock in Brazil



James Hatfield acknowledges the applause as he and his disabled crew on *Time & Tide* cross the finish line in Rio yesterday at the end of the first leg

WHEN you see the television coverage of the BT Global Challenge, you will sit glued to your seat as the 40-ton boats surf down mountainous seas in the Roaring Forties, dodging icebergs with the crew tied to their yachts by a lifeline.

The reality on Sunday was very different. After 5,000 miles of racing, *Ocean Rover* was in Copacabana Bay under the statue of Christ the Redeemer and we were drifting onto the beach with no wind and only the tide to move us. Even as a novice sailor, I realised that this was not quite what was required. One of the things I learnt early on in sailing is that there is always too much wind or not enough. On this occasion, there was definitely too little.

The other problem was that almost alongside was *Heath Insurance II*. We had been within sight of them for the last five days and, although it focuses your mind on the task in hand, it does get you down after a while.

BT Global Challenge

As we rounded the last mark before the finish, we had a 500-yard lead on them and, with only five knots of wind, we pulled out all the stops. It seemed as if every sail in the boat was tried in our attempts to get that extra fraction of speed. Yet, as we tacked, the little wind we had finally gave up and we sat there and watched *Heath* sail past us. It was another two hours before we finished.

Having been at sea for a month, the first order of the day was a beer. As always, our man from Rover, Marius Harle, was on hand with the goods. I had to send an early message on to race HQ the day before as the worst possible scenario had occurred — I had run out of cigarettes — and it was with great joy that, along with the cold beer, several packets of fags were thrown aboard.

The last two days have probably been the same for most crews. Lots and lots of beer has been consumed, large steak meals eaten and long slow baths taken. I have even found time to sleep for about two hours. The inevitable debrief by the crew, over the ever-present beer, went true to form. It is amazing how people do things that almost drive you to murder at the time, but, reviewed in the cold light of day, you laugh and put them down to experience.

Looking back, I have to say it was a brilliant experience and I am looking forward to the next leg. We had long days and balmy nights sailing the trade winds under spinnaker.

surfing down the rollers at ridiculous speeds. It was strange how, after the Equator, the weather actually became cooler and Rio has been quite wet.

The leg had its downs as well as its highs. For the last couple of days, the wind would die for no reason, leaving us becalmed. On one occasion, the shout of "whale!" went up and all the crew emerged to peer over the rail and watch. It turned out to be a giant turtle paddling along lazily but with great dignity. We were only just beating it and, as always, there was *Heath* almost within spitting distance.

I celebrated my 38th birthday at sea with a glass of champagne and a slice of cake with the crew. We then crossed the Equator and celebrated with another glass of bubbly. But the highlight for me was the news that my wife, Tracey, had given birth to our third child, and first daughter, whom we have named Georgia. Thanks to the marvels of modern technology, I was able to telephone her at the hospital that evening and she sounded marvellous. One thing that it did do was remind me that it will be another three months before I can hold my daughter for the first time. I was quite jealous talking to Sue Walters, the wife of a fellow crew member, when she described to me how she had held Georgia and how beautiful she was.

The "world's toughest yacht race" continues, but often the sailing is the easy part. For the rest of the crew, it is the tourists by his visiting local museums and churches, and prepare the boat for the extremes of the next leg through the Southern Ocean to Wellington. Plus, thanks to the sponsor that supplied the entire fleet with free phone cards, I will be able to keep in touch with the family.

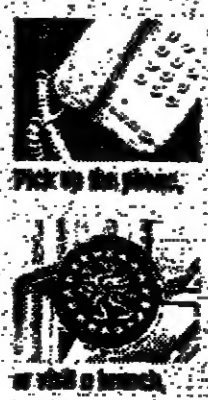


Meet Russell.

When Russell talks to Midland about his business account, he always talks to the same person.

Russell owns a fishing tackle shop and considers himself a very lucky man. "Not everyone gets to make a living out of their favourite pastime". He's also a fairly cautious man and feels a little uneasy about dealing with people who are unfamiliar with his business. That's why he joined Midland. He knew that they would give him a named personal contact at the bank, which means that he'd never have to waste time explaining things twice and always have someone on hand who understood his business. Finally enough, Russell's contact at Midland, is also something of an angler, and occasionally calls Russell for tips. "Mutually beneficial", is how Russell describes it.

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WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 45

DIAZO

(a) A formative of the names of compounds derived from the aromatic hydrocarbons, which contain two atoms of nitrogen combined in a peculiar way with phenyl. "The diazonium salts are by far the most important diazo-compounds."

REFLUX

(b) In chemistry and distilling the condition, process or action of refluxing. Also concretely, the condensed vapour involved in this. "The operation is most conveniently conducted in a retubulated retort to the neck of which is attached a reflux condenser."

WHEATSTONE BRIDGE

(a) A simple circuit for measuring electrical resistance by connecting it so as to form a quadrilateral with three known resistances by applying a voltage between a pair of opposite corners. A galvanometer connected between the other two corners registers no current when the ratios of the two pairs of adjacent resistances are equal. The eponym of Sir Charles Wheatstone, who in 1843 brought into notice the differential measurement apparatus which had been invented by S. Hunter Christie in 1833.

YOUNG'S SLITS

(a) The classic experiment into the nature of light, an investigation that provided the basic element in the development of the wave theory and was first performed by the English physicist and physician Thomas Young in 1801. Young identified the phenomenon called interference. Observing that when light from a single source is split into two beams, and the two beams are then recombined, the combined beam shows a pattern of light and dark fringes. Young concluded that the fringes result from the fact that when the beams recombine, their peaks and troughs may not be in step.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Ng3! 2. Kg3 (2 Qxg3 Rxb3 wins easily) 2... Rxf8 and ... Rhf8 follows with decisive consequences.

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SPORT

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30 1996

English champions forget domestic troubles and concentrate on European adventure

United looking for control from Cantona

BY PETER BALL

MANCHESTER United stand on the brink of a great adventure. A win over Fenerbahce at Old Trafford tonight will virtually guarantee them a place in the quarter-finals of the European Cup for the first time for 28 years, and end their, and England's, recent embarrassments in the Champions' League.

"It'll be a great night for the players, and a great opportunity for them," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "We wanted to get over the Champions' League stage, because it has been a thorn in our flesh in our last two experiences."

If they win, only victory for Rapid Vienna in Turin tonight can prevent — or at least delay — United's entry into the quarter-finals. But if a win for Rapid seems unlikely, United's success tonight now seems far less assured than when they won 2-0 in Istanbul two weeks ago.

Since then, United have let in 11 goals in two matches. They conceded five against Newcastle United at St James' Park, which could happen to anybody, and six at Southampton, which does not usually happen to lesser sides, let alone the English champions. Ferguson refused even to discuss the recent failures, but suddenly, with Bruce gone, Pallister struggling with injuries, and forwards queuing up to chip Peter Schmeichel, that proud, unbeaten record in European competitions at Old Trafford, stretching over 40 years and more than 50 games, looks vulnerable.

The suggestion that a Turkish team might succeed where Real Madrid, AC Milan and Juventus have failed seems far-fetched, but the record nearly fell to Galatasaray three years ago, when Cantona's late equaliser saved it.

Much may depend on Cantona again tonight, for he has been even more out of sorts than his colleagues. "I didn't know I could play so badly," he said after United's victory over Liverpool on October 12.

Since then, he has played equally badly, and his temperament, under such tight control last year, has also begun to flare. "It is a good advantage for us if Cantona has problems," Jes Høgh, the Fenerbahce defender, said. "If he doesn't play well, the whole team has problems. They seem to have a problem finding someone to take control of the game."

Nick Barmby, Middlesbrough's England striker, joined Everton for £5.75 million last night. Liverpool and Leeds United were also linked with the 22-year-old after the Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, announced last week he was prepared to receive offers for the former Tottenham player. Barmby joined Middlesbrough from White Hart Lane for £5.25 million in August 1995.

United will need Cantona to control himself, and make a significant contribution to the night. Equally, much will also depend on Fenerbahce's taste for the battle. They know they have to win to maintain any interest in the competition, and are reportedly on a win bonus of £10,000 a man.

That should inspire them, and the ability of their Nigeria international, Jay Jay Okocha, and the goalscoring touch of Boli, who had a disappointing game in Istanbul but has a domestic record of nine goals in 11 games, should ensure

United do not take too much for granted.

Okocha was a major threat in Istanbul. "He played in areas we didn't expect, and for the first 15 minutes, until we got it sorted out, they had us stretched all over the place," Ferguson said.

Pallister is rated "very doubtful" by Ferguson and his absence would be a serious blow, although Ronnie Johnsen will be fit to replace him.

There was better news yesterday of Nicky Butt, who did light training. He will have a fitness test at lunchtime. If he does join Roy Keane in the centre of midfield, United will have strong cover in front of their back four.

If Butt fails, it will almost certainly mean Beckham moving in to partner Keane, and a tactical rethink. "If he doesn't make it, I will have to think seriously about playing a different way," Ferguson said.

Giggs definitely will be missing, which will undermine United's attack, but Fenerbahce, too, have fitness doubts about Høgh, Kostadinov and Bulent. If Keane can repeat his breath-taking form of the game against Rapid, and Cantona can recapture his form, United should overpower Fenerbahce.

"If we qualify for the quarter-finals it will be a tremendously proud moment," Ferguson said. "To get to the next stage, a quarter-final tie in March against Porto or AC Milan, gets the adrenalin going."

On form, that may be a step too far, but Ferguson is already relishing the prospect. "Once we qualify, we can improve," he said. "I think we'll be better in March or April. We're a young side and learning with every game."

"It'll be a great experience for the players, a really fabulous match in prospect. It's the kind of thing we want. People say it's the hardest draw, but it's better being there than not being there." Indeed.



The Ajax players, Musampa, left, and Veldman, in training for the match at Ibrox tonight, where they hope to secure a quarter-final place

Rangers take a chance on Wilson

BY KEVIN MCCABE

THE European Cup Champions' League match at Ibrox this evening will be one of the rare occasions in which Ajax are made to appear irredeemably stupid. The Dutch club has a brash tradition of pitching youngsters into important games, but even they might balk at the notion of giving a teenager his debut on such a night.

Scott Wilson, 19, is to start against Ajax in exactly those circumstances, but his selection owes more to Rangers' desperation than to their audacity. In August his club, in accordance with Uefa requirements, nominated 25 players for use in the six Champions' League matches and 13 of them have since succumbed to injury or suspension. The rules, however, also

allow fledglings such as Wilson, a centre half, to be used. He will replace Gough, the Rangers' captain, who collected his second booking of the tournament during the 4-1 defeat in Amsterdam a fortnight ago.

Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, said: "Like a lot of the younger ones, Scott is in his fourth year at Ibrox and has come out of a very successful youth team. The most common gripe from them is that they don't get enough opportunities to play in the first team. Well, he's got one now."

This, however, is hardly the most favourable moment for him to try his hand at senior football. Rangers have lost their first three games in the Champions' League this season, extending to 11 matches their run of fixtures without a

win in the group stage of the European Cup. Worse still, Wilson will be confronted this evening by Patrick Kluivert. The Ajax forward, whose goal defeated AC Milan in the 1995 final of the tournament, has been poorly protected from his own enthusiastic

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desire to take part this season and earlier attempts to return after a knee injury suffered in the spring proved premature. Kluivert, 20, is making more measured progress in his latest comeback and he has scored on his last two appearances.

Smith, understandably, avoided direct comparison of the resources available to each

club. "With so many players missing," he said, "the tactical part is less important to us. We have to get people together and working to put Ajax under pressure. We did a bit of that at the start of the match in Amsterdam, now we must do more."

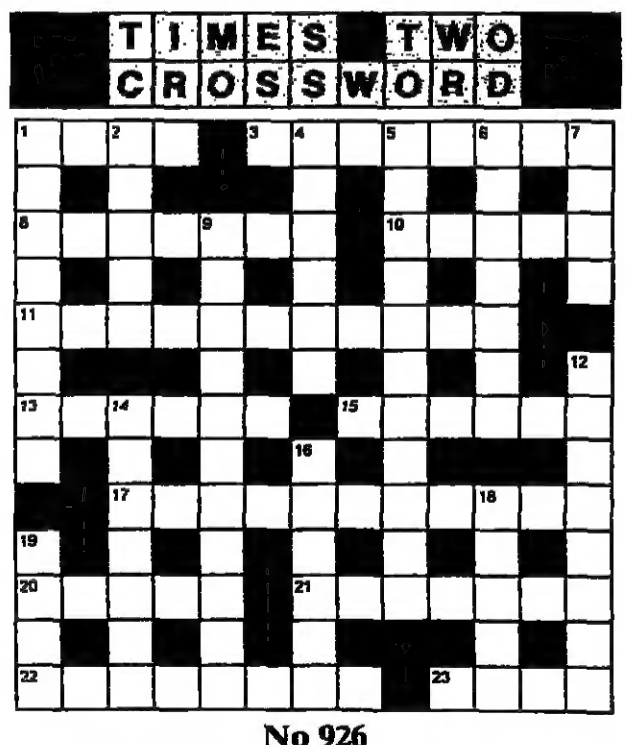
Rangers will be captained by Brian Laudrup, who bequeathed the loss of the sort of quality and experience possessed by Gough and Paul Gascoigne, who, like Alex Cleland and Craig Moore, are suspended. The Dane could only echo his manager's words and hope that some mighty spirit of collective endeavour can be summoned up by a patchwork team.

If all such talk amounts only to wishful thinking, this could be a particularly distressing night for the Scots. Ajax cannot afford to dawdle

when their place in the quarter-finals of the European Cup is still to be claimed. In addition, Louis van Gaal's club has yet to prove that it can survive as a major institution.

The Bosman ruling removed Edgar Davids and Michael Reiziger, without compensation, this summer, and Kluivert and Jari Litmanen may leave on the same basis next year. For now, though, Ajax remain rich in talent and mounted a show of strength by deciding that Dani, who scored twice against Rangers in Amsterdam, did not even merit a place in the party brought to Glasgow.

RANGERS (probable 3-4-3): T. Smith — S. Wilson, G. Hogg, J. Bennett — G. Shields, D. Morrison, C. Miller, J. Albert, D. Robertson — P. Van Vossen, S. Laudrup.
AJAX (probable 3-4-3): E. van der Sar — M. Senica, F. de Boer, W. Bergkamp — R. B. Bos, J. Veldman, M. Reiziger, A. Scholten — T. Botsch, P. Kluivert, M. Overmars.



- ACROSS**
- Dismiss; big bag (4)
 - Offer of marriage (8)
 - Roofless (bus) (4-3)
 - Offer one's view (5)
 - Sherlock Holmes roomed in (5,6)
 - Open gallery, porch (6)
 - Fleshy hindquarter (6)
 - Desire-heightening drug (11)
 - Last Greek letter (5)
 - To do with sight (7)
 - Brother (arch) (8)
 - William — Tallis colleague (4)
- DOWN**
- Winter plaything; disgraced pig (Animal Farm) (8)
 - Verify (5)
 - Estimation (6)
 - Labouring class (Marx) (11)
 - Strong, orig. Cambs., cheese (7)
 - Drink sediment (4)
 - A steam clean (7,4)
 - In irons (8)
 - Seductive look (4,3)
 - Merry (6)
 - Irriating, tickling (5)
 - Cock's crest; honey store (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 925
ACROSS: 6 Twelfth Night, 7 Mangle, 8 Quirky, 9 Shah, 10 Treatise, 12 Fly-paper, 16 Rack, 18 Subdue, 20 Fridg, 21 Freudian slip.
DOWN: 1 Hodge-hop, 2 Effect, 3 Cheque, 4 Mimi, 5 Chokes, 6 Teach, 11 Terrible, 13 Louvre, 14 Pious, 15 Refine, 17 Crisp, 19 Do up.

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 921
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 5 Body language, 8 Primer, 9 Matron, 10 Vice, 12 Stephen, 14 Barrier, 15 Year, 17 Figure, 18 Astute, 20 Incompatible.
DOWN: 1 Abbreviation, 2 Edam, 3 Animate, 4 Multiple, 6 Lure, 7 Globe-trotter, 11 Corduroy, 13 Receipt, 16 Pact, 19 Tuba.

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLANDS domestic or international network is J Copolia, Millford, County Armagh, Northern Ireland.
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All flights subject to availability.

Takeover could halt Yorkshire move

BY SIMON WILDE

LEEDS rugby league club is to remain at Headingley, rather than relocate to Elland Road, after a takeover yesterday. The new owner of the ground, Paul Caddick, is to make fresh efforts to persuade Yorkshire county cricket club to stay there, rather than move to a new £50 million site near Wakefield.

The directors of Leeds Cricket, Football and Athletic Company rejected a rival bid from Caspian, owners of Leeds United football club, which committed the rugby league team to a move to Elland Road. This proposal

had angered supporters of both clubs, who expressed their opposition with a petition bearing 14,000 signatures.

Caddick is chairman of Leeds rugby union club's development committee and was a former player with Headingley and Castleford. He made it clear yesterday that he wanted Headingley to be a centre for both rugby codes, as well as cricket.

Yorkshire's proposed move has met with fierce opposition, with members intent on calling a public meeting and a ballot to properly weigh feelings. Despite such threats, the club appears to be intent on going ahead, despite doubts

over the likelihood of receiving £28 million from the National Lottery.

This site [Headingley] is just not sustainable without cricket," Caddick said yesterday. "In the past, they [Yorkshire] have been tenants and have had very little financial benefit from the site. Perhaps new arrangements can be made whereby they could gain benefits."

"I'm very firmly of the belief that Yorkshire will not leave Headingley. It is unrealistic to expect public funds to be used to support a £50 million ground for a five-day annual event [a Test match]."

Caddick bought a majority

shareholding in Leeds Cricket, Football and Athletic Club after joining forces with Gary Hetherington, chairman and founder of Sheffield Eagles, who joins Leeds as chief executive, replacing Alf Davies.

There was immediate speculation that Hetherington might attempt to bring in Phil Larder, the Great Britain coach, to whom he is assistant on the South Pacific tour, in an attempt to improve the rugby league club's fortunes.

Leeds had a disappointing first season in the Super League and Caddick has promised funds will be available to strengthen the team.

Time & Tide finishes with a flourish

Edward Gorman

witnesses the
completion of a
remarkable journey

BT
Global Challenge

She may have been the last in, but even the sun, which has been in short supply over the last few days, came out to welcome *Time & Tide* as she made her stately progress to the Yacht Club of Rio de Janeiro yesterday morning, where she received the biggest reception of all the first-leg finishers in the BT Global Challenge.

There were crew volunteers from all the other boats waiting to shout "three cheers" and amongst the first on board to congratulate the skipper, James Hatfield, and his disabled sailors was Boris Webber, whose *Courtaulds International* had finished 2½ hours earlier.

Hatfield's team had fought with Webber's every inch of the way over the last 2,000 miles and had taken the lead twice — for the second, tantalising time within a few miles of the finish — and were desperately disappointed not to have prevailed at the end. However, watching the

Time & Tide crew, which includes amputees, two with cerebral palsy and survivors of cancer, it was impossible not to be moved by their courage and determination not only to sail the Atlantic but to do so on such a heavy and physically demanding boat.

"We've got a lot of friends throughout this fleet," Hatfield said, as one after another, his fellow Challengers shook his hand and patted him on the back. "My crew got used to the fact that they could drive the boat hard and be safe. We always said this was the training leg for us and that's exactly what it was. I'm very proud of them, they've done well."

Courtaulds endured the

worst first leg of the fleet and emerged understandably depressed to have finished in thirteenth place and almost four days behind the leader, *Group 4*, skippered by Mike Golding. A succession of mishaps brought them down after one of the best starts in the Solent. They missed the tide gate at Ushant, when 11 of the crew were incapacitated with seasickness. Several days' later, they blew two spinnakers and broke a pole. Gybing the spinnaker in any sort of breeze after that became a big undertaking, involving dropping the 3,500 sq ft sail, repacking it and then re-hoisting it. This took on average about two hours.

Pat Redman, the crew doc-

tor, who has decided not to continue the race after being seasick for almost the entire leg, spoke bravely about her battle to overcome it and the agonising decision to call it a day. "It's demoralising. It just makes every single thing an effort. It's tough enough at sea to do things half the time. When you are throwing up, it makes it even harder."

After a report in *The Times* about her decision to withdraw last week and Chay Blyth's search for a medically-qualified person to take her place at short notice, three doctors have applied to fill her berth for the Cape Horn leg. The successful candidate, who is expected to be chosen today, will be required to pay the full fee for the leg of £6,800. Although all the skippers have undergone medical training, Blyth likes to have a doctor or paramedic on board each boat.

Photograph, page 46
Capstick in Rio, page 46

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